

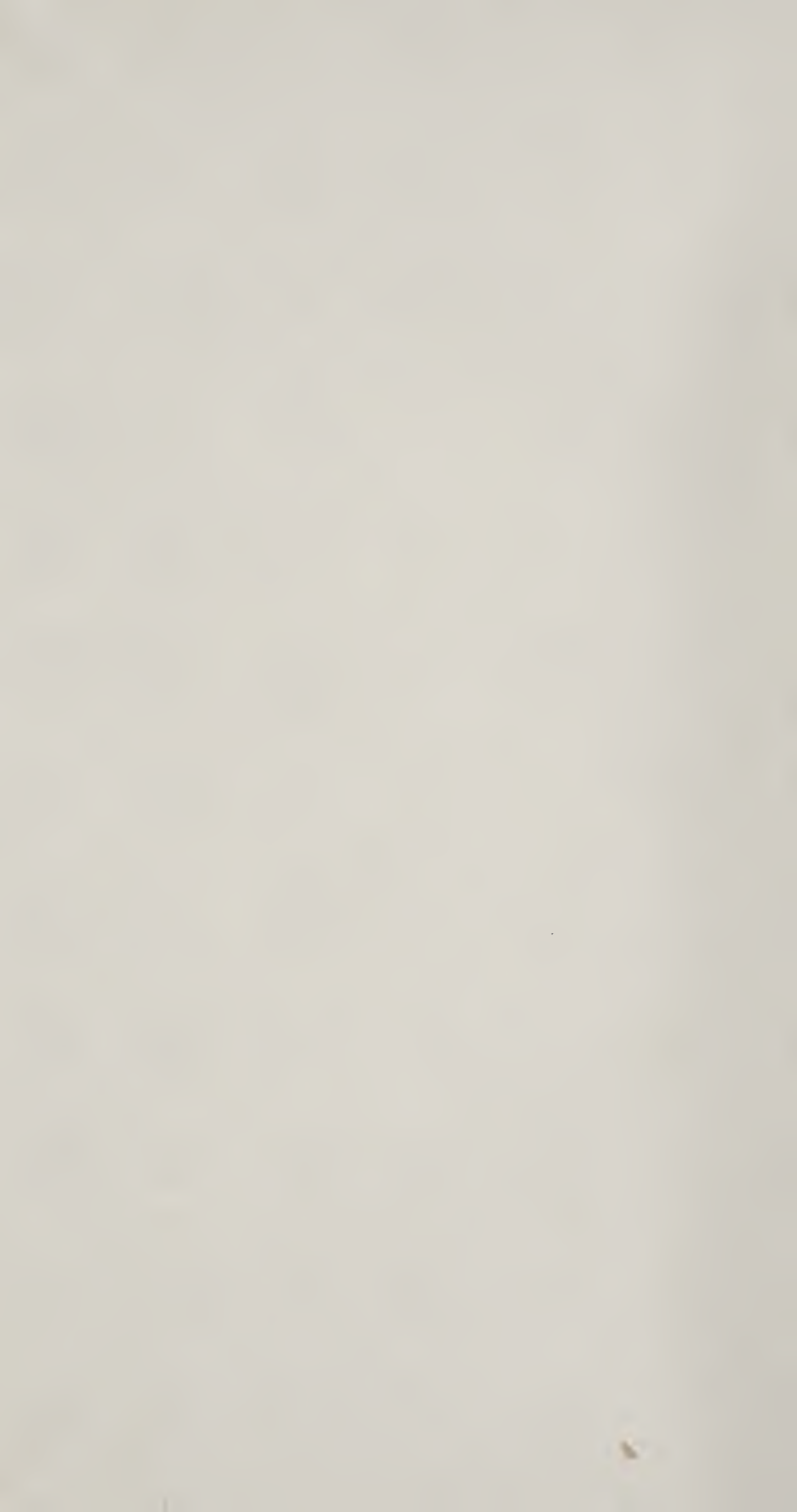
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1821







REPORT

OF THE

New York (State) Legislature

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

Senate and Assembly,

In relation to the Message of the Governor of the
18th of January last, implicating the conduct
of sundry individuals holding offices
under the General Government.

WITH THE

DOCUMENTS

ACCOMPANYING THE SAME.

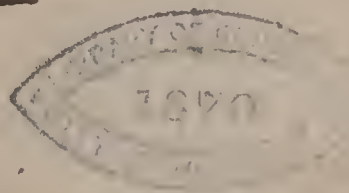


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REPORT, &c.



THE joint committee of the Senate and Assembly, to whom was referred the message of his Excellency the Governor, of the 18th of January last, with the documents accompanying the same,

REPORT,

That the charge contained in the speech of his Excellency, delivered at the commencement of the session, must, in the opinion of the committee, have been designed to apply to the President of the United States, and to the heads of department at Washington; and to implicate them, as having arrayed “an organized and diciplined corps” of their officers in this state, for the purpose of improperly “interfering in our elections, and of violating the purity and independence of our local government.” Although the accusation is made hypothetically, the intent cannot be mistaken; nor is the force of it diminished, by the ambiguous form in which it is preferred. If it were possible, however, for any one to hesitate as to the nature and extent of the charge, the last communication of his Excellency, with the accompanying documents, transmitted by him, in reply to a resolution of the Assembly, and referred to the committee, must convince the most skeptical.

In this message, no doubt is attempted to be raised; no hypothesis is set forth, for argument or dispute; no effort is made, to veil the design; the accusation is positive and unequivocal. It is only necessary to refer to that part of the message, which relates to the conduct of General Swift, to remove ev-

ery lingering scruple. "*When,*" says the Governor, "*the situation, connexions, education, and political principles of this officer of the United States, are considered, there can be no doubt, but that he had previously ascertained the sense of his political superiors, and that he was instructed to act accordingly.*" The allusion to the President of the United States, and the heads of department, as the "*political superiors*" who "*instructed*" General Swift, to pursue the course which he did, at the last election, cannot be misunderstood. The remarks of his Excellency, respecting Messrs. Tillotson and Sutherland, whose *affinity to the President of the United States, and to the Secretary of the Navy*, respectively, is particularly mentioned, further establish this position. The crimination of the gentleman presiding over the post-office department, is also of the most unequivocal character. In reference to the appointment of Mr. Jacob Van Ness, post master at Poughkeepsie, his Excellency observes, "*this event actually took place, and indicates an understanding and co-operation, between a department at least, at Washington, and a political party in this state.*" The Secretary of State of the United States, designates the newspapers, in the several states, in which the laws of the Union are to be published. A change has recently been made of one of those papers, and this circumstance is mentioned by the Governor, to impeach that officer, of the general government. Many additional observations might be specified, but it is deemed unnecessary to detail them.

The serious nature of this accusation, seemed to strike the community with astonishment; inasmuch as the existence of any extraneous influence, in our elections, had never been observed by our citizens, whose watchfulness against all encroachments upon their rights, has been unremitted. Had this denunciation of the officers of the general government, been made in any form, less solemn and imposing;

or by an individual, not clothed with the authority of government in a high official station ; it would not have met the notice of the legislature. It would probably have been considered the mere effervescence of party animosity ; or perhaps, the invective of some political zealot, whose " vaulting ambition " did not shrink from the idea, of severing the bonds of friendship between the general and state governments ; or perhaps, it might have been viewed, as the refuge of some disappointed intriguer, willing to account for the decline of his popularity, in any other than the true way—a loss of the confidence of the people. But when the chief magistrate of this state, in the performance of his constitutional duty, announces to the legislature, the existence of an "*organized and disciplined corps of officers of the general government,*" who have interfered in our elections, and protesting against such interference, calls upon the people "*to resist these alarming attempts upon the purity and independence of their local government,*" these considerations may seem to be irrelevant, if not inadmissible. The subject then becomes too deeply interesting, to the people of this state, to be attributed to motives, such as have been alluded to ; and their representatives would be wanting in their duty to their constituents, to disregard it. It was for these reasons, that both branches of the legislature, promptly demanded of the executive, the evidence in his possession, to substantiate the allegations which he had made. This evidence has been furnished ; but so far from demonstrating the existence of any improper influence, on the part of the general government in the local concerns of this state ; or of any organization of its officers, for corrupt purposes ; or of any concert of action among them at our elections ; it establishes nothing more, in the opinion of the committee, than that a few individuals, holding offices under the United States, were active at the last election, in support of

their favourite candidates ; and exposes some particular acts and declarations of particular officers.

Before reviewing the various documents which have been received by the committee, from the individuals whose conduct has been implicated, it is proper to examine some of the novel positions, assumed by the executive, in his message. Until his excellency asserted that the officers of the United States, were "*objects of jealousy*," and "*partially disfranchised*," their enjoyment, as citizens of the several states, of all rights not expressly prohibited, had never been denied to them. The general government must have officers in the several states, and if the elective franchise of the citizens of the states respectively, is forfeited or impaired, by accepting an office under the United States, honorable and competent men would disdain to make such a sacrifice. The facts and the reasoning upon them, by which this doctrine is attempted to be enforced, are by no means satisfactory. That national officers cannot "sit in Congress, or in the electoral colleges," is indisputable ; these are mandatory provisions of the constitution, and the reason of them is both obvious and sound. But does it follow that they are not entitled to the enjoyment of all other privileges, where no restraint is imposed ? Does it not rather follow, that where there is a restriction, as to a particular right, the legality of exercising every other, is, by such exception, confirmed ? It is the very essence of our republican system, and the language of our state constitution, that no man can be disfranchised, by implication or by analogy, nor deprived of his suffrage, but by positive enactment ; and any other principle is dangerous to our liberties, and, in the opinion of the committee, wholly untenable.

The observation of his excellency, that an "officer of the general government cannot sit in the state legislature," so far as respects this state, is certainly incorrect ; and it is not a little surprising that this remark should have been made by him, with a knowl-

edge of the fact, that persons holding offices under the general government, many of whom are his political friends, were, at that time, members of both branches of the legislature. If his excellency's assertion be correct, how is this inconsistency to be reconciled? Or why is its continuance permitted?—Would it not be his peculiar province, to notice such an infringement of the constitution, and to warn the representatives of the people against its predominance? The idea, in the opinion of the committee, is unsound, and cannot be maintained. That some of the states have prohibited officers of the general government, from holding seats in their legislatures, does not vary the case: this they had a perfect right to do; it is a question of expediency alone. The constituent branches of the legislature of this state, have not adopted this policy, considering it illiberal, partially to disfranchise a portion of their citizens, selected for their talents and respectability, to fill the offices of the general government.

The concurrent resolution, passed in March, 1790, which is mentioned in the message, only proves, that it was deemed improper, at that period, by the Legislature which adopted it, for a member of Congress, or other person holding an office under the United States, to be a member of the Senate or Assembly of this state. That resolution could only bind the legislature which sanctioned it; its obligatory power did not extend to future legislatures. Had a law been enacted, embracing the same provision, it would, of course, have been operative upon all subsequent legislatures, until their wisdom had dictated its repeal. Our constitution declares, that the Senate and Assembly shall be the judges of their own members; but it may well be doubted, whether either of the houses can create a qualification for a seat therein, not recognised by the constitution: at any rate, it becomes highly important to our constituents, that the qualifications for holding a seat, should be expli-

citly defined ; otherwise, they may be unexpectedly deprived of their representatives, to their great inconvenience and prejudice.

Since the year 1792, this objection has not prevailed ; and it is an indisputable truth, that since that time, the established usage of the legislature has been to permit national officers, to hold seats in both branches ; and it is equally true, that within the same period, his excellency has been a member for several years, and during a part of the time, was lieutenant-governor of the state, and presided over the Senate, in that capacity.

The general reasoning which is urged, to show the impropriety of national officers holding seats in the state legislatures, would apply with equal force, to prohibit officers of the state governments, from holding seats in Congress. This exclusion, however, has never been contended for ; and the common practice of this and of other states has been, to elect state officers to the national legislature. Several members of the last Congress, from this state, held prominent offices at the time of their election. Whether the officers of the United States, ought or ought not to hold seats in the state legislature, is not the important question ; but whether, by accepting such offices, they forfeit any right, which they before enjoyed as citizens of the states respectively. The most suspicious states, have gone no further, than to debar national officers, from sitting in the legislature ; no restriction has ever been imposed, upon their right of suffrage. Wholly to deny them this right would be palpably unconstitutional.—It is the most sacred prerogative inherited from our forefathers ; and we must indignantly repel, any attempt to impair it.—No matter from what source it emanates ; no matter how exalted its author, nor how lofty his pretensions to patriotism, we could not hesitate to pronounce it, the offspring of a heart inimical to the liberty, the prosperity, and the perpetuity of the republic. The

organization of the officers of the general government, with views hostile to state independence and sovereignty, must also be deprecated, as an unwarrantable procedure, meriting the most serious reprehension. Against such an influence we should unitedly protest; and when necessity required, assume the responsibility of resisting its unhallowed intrusion. But to exercise their right of suffrage, does not evince such an organization of the officers of the United States; nor is the indiscreet zeal of some of them, to be urged as a proof of its existence. Individuals may be violent, without being organized to subvert the foundations of state sovereignty; and such an indiscretion becomes the strongest evidence that no such organization exists. The approach of despotism, is not by boisterous invectives, or deep-toned recriminations; but by silent and insidious advances—undermining first, then prostrating; and if the general government had organized their officers to war against this state, or any individual of it, the means would not have been employed, which have been indicated, as the evidence of such design. His Excellency observes, that the elective franchise should be exercised by national officers, “*in the genuine spirit of republicanism; that the suffrages of the citizen should not be biassed by the emoluments and honors of the officer, and that he should not carry into the elections any of the influence derived from his official position.*” This discrimination is not easily comprehended, and would seem to be impracticable. The constitution and laws recognize no distinction, between citizens who hold offices under the United States, and those who do not, in the *mode* of exercising the elective franchise. If they have the right to vote at our elections, may they not also express their opinions of the conduct of public men, and offer the reasons which induce them to prefer one candidate to another? This right, the executive declares in his message,

is possessed by every citizen ; and claims the benefit of it himself. And it may further be asked, have they not the same right which other citizens enjoy, of inducing their companions, neighbors and friends, to co-operate with them, in all honorable measures, to promote the general welfare ? Or, are they merely to be permitted to deposit their ballots into the boxes, and then to retire ? This would be a proscription unjust, as well as unconstitutional ; abridging the freedom of action and of speech, and introducing distinctions between our citizens, repugnant to our republican character. Is it possible to separate the influence, which an individual would possess, if he were not a national officer, from that which he possesses as such, in any sensible manner, so as to allow him to exercise his whole influence at the state elections, in the first character, and excluding all which appertains to him, in the other capacity ? Certainly not ; such a discrimination is theoretical and fanciful, not practicable.

There is no alternative, but to refuse to the officers of the general government all participation in the elective franchise ; or to sanction to them its full, free, and unrestricted exercise, in equal degree with other citizens. It will not be pretended, that this state could constitutionally pass a law, restraining officers of the United States, from the enjoyment of this privilege ; neither has the general government the power to control them in this particular, or to prescribe the course which they are to pursue, in reference to state elections. This idea will be clearly illustrated by a single example. Suppose, that immediately preceding the last election, the general government had issued an order, prohibiting their officers from interfering on that occasion, upon pain of removal ; or, merely permitting them to give their silent votes. Who would not have pronounced such a measure, a violation of their rights, as citizens of

this state ? Who would have been foremost to denounce them for this “ unwarrantable obtrusion of extraneous influence, in the local concerns of the state ? ” Such conduct would have merited and would have met, with the indignation of every friend to liberty. With what propriety then, has the executive demanded the interposition of the national legislature, and insinuated that they were regardless of their duty upon this subject ? Any interference on the part of the general government, either to restrict or instruct their officers, would be equally unconstitutional and unjust. After the most deliberate reflection, the committee are of opinion, that the officers of the general government are not in a state of disfranchisement ; but that their rights, as citizens of the respective states, are neither forfeited nor diminished, so far as relates to the local concerns of each state.

The committee will now review, the exculpatory documents transmitted to them ; premising, that all the evidence furnished by the executive, has been procured since his accusation was preferred ; thus admitting, that he was not, at that time, in possession of a single fact, to justify his denunciation of the officers of the United States. The testimony thus offered, is not of a positive nature ; and most of the individuals who have deposed, or certified to their statements, speak from presumption and hearsay, not from their own knowledge.

The conduct of the officers at the navy-yard, in Kings county, is first complained of. It is alleged, that Col. Decatur, and other officers, brought up the persons in public employ to vote ; and that “ improper attempts were made, in a variety of shapes, to operate on the electors.” That Col. Decatur, and other officers attached to the navy-yard, were active at the last election, is not denied by them. The *substance* of the charge against them, is, however, successfully rebutted by the certificate of the in-

spectors of the election, who are gentlemen of acknowledged respectability. They explicitly declare, that they saw nothing unlawful or dishonorable in the conduct of Col. Decatur, or of any of the officers of the general government; and that no illegal votes were taken. Col. Decatur states in his affidavit, that from the nature of his situation, he has no command or official influence, over the persons employed about the navy-yard; and, while he frankly avows his zeal at the last election, and the motives which actuated him, he disclaims all interference on the part of the general government, or of any officer, dependent, or agent thereof. The affidavit of George S. Wise, jun. purser at the navy-yard, is of similar import; and the other documents relative to his conduct, are altogether satisfactory. By the affidavit of sailing-master Bloodgood, it appears, that the quarrel alluded to, in one of the certificates communicated by his excellency, was of a private and not of a political nature; and the influence of any officer of the general government over him, is denied. The affidavit of Amos Dickinson, the master blacksmith, of Amos Cheney, master laborer, and of James Cosgrove, gunner, exculpate Col. Decatur, and every other person, from the imputation of influencing their conduct; and shew, that those individuals conceived, that they were exercising nothing more than their undoubted rights as free citizens, at the last election. The certificates of doctor Hunt, and of the Rev. Mr. Ireland, are conclusive, as to that part of the subject connected with their names; and must convince every man, that no undue influence could have operated upon gentlemen, entertaining that high sense of honor, which is their characteristic. The letter from Mr. Brockholst Livingston, jun. is in reply to a part of the certificate of Mr. John Hunter, contained among the documents furnished by the governor, in which Mr.

Livingston is untruly stated to be a custom-house officer. This letter was addressed to a member of the Senate, before the reference of the message to the committee was known at Brooklyn, and is introduced with the consent of the author. The committee can discover no reason for supposing, that the general government interfered at all, in the election in Kings county; nor that any organization of its officers existed. No illegal votes were taken; no person was compelled to vote, contrary to the dictates of his own judgment; and the republican candidate who had represented the county, the preceding year, and was again supported for the assembly, failed in his election, the number of votes given for governor, was about the same as on former occasions; and their *political complexion* did not materially vary. The documents referred to, are marked "Navy-Yard," from Nos. 1, to 13, inclusive.

The documents received from the surveyor of the port of New-York, completely exonerate him from all censure. The offence of this gentleman is, that he attended a meeting of the electors of the county, in which he resided, and was appointed one of a committee, to prepare resolutions for their consideration, which were afterwards reported and adopted, as the sense of the meeting. These resolutions approbate the conduct of the Vice-President, during the late war; and severely animadvert upon the political course of his excellency; but it does not appear that General Swift had any further agency in this transaction, than the other members of the committee. The letter from General Swift states, that he did not even know the political sentiments of his own deputy, nor of his subordinate officers, whom he is accused of influencing. Many of the individuals attached to the custom-house, in New-York, who have subscribed the certificate marked "Custom-House, New-York," No. 2, are warm adherents

of the Governor, and exerted themselves at the last election, in his support. The letter of Mr. Beekman M. Van Buren, and also that of the deputy surveyor, Mr. Samuel Terry, both of whom are his avowed friends, furnish additional testimony of the injustice of the attack upon General Swift; and of the deep regret, with which those gentlemen had seen it made. The letters of Messrs. Innes, Darling and Wood, and the certificates of Messrs. Anderson and Gahagan, corroborate the others; and prove, how highly our citizens value the elective franchise, by their solemn protest against any encroachment upon its lawful exercise. It is necessary to remark, that the individual by whose affidavit the conduct of the custom-house officers is impeached, was, at the time, an inspector of leather, holding his office under the "state administration." The documents referred to, are marked "Custom-House, New-York," from No. 1 to No. 9, inclusive.

The conduct of the two inspectors at Staten-Island, Messrs. Van Buren and Arnett, is adverted to, as connected with the department under the superintendence of General Swift. Those individuals have long been known as active republicans, at our elections. The certificate of the inspectors of the election, marked "Custom-House, Staten-Island," No. 1, exonerates them from the charge of improper conduct, and fixes it upon one of their accusers, whose outrageous and scandalous behaviour, caused the inspectors to feel some apprehension for the safety of the ballot-boxes, and the offender would have been committed to prison, had the proper officer been present. The numerous affidavits accompanying this report, detail a state of facts relative to the certificates transmitted by his excellency, upon this part of the case, which must excite much mortification and disgust. Some of them were obtained from persons who could neither read nor write; and who, being intoxicated at

the time, were induced to assent to what they have since confessed was false. With the standing of the persons who procured them, Messrs. Garrit Gilbert and Joshua Secor, the public are already sufficiently well acquainted. Every material fact contained in them, is disproved; the characters of those who have certified, are impeached, both morally and politically; and the whole, in the opinion of the committee, exhibits an abortive effort to arouse jealousy and discontent, without any rational ground for excitement. That the Vice-President should be assailed by such men, is no reproach; but the attempt to fasten upon him the crime of executing a deed for property, by way of present, and for the purpose of procuring the votes of electors in his favor, is not merely characteristic of the persecution which has been levelled against him, but manifests a greater degree of malignity, than could well have been imagined. The documents relative to the election on Staten-Island, are headed "Custom-House, Staten-Island," from No. 1 to No. 12, inclusive.

"The resolution of the citizens of Buffalo," implicating the persons who are attached to the commission for establishing the boundary line between the United States and Canada, would appear *to have been prepared, solely to confirm the charge previously made by the executive.* It was passed a month subsequently to the speech of his excellency, and nearly eight months after the election to which it refers. It is scarcely dealing fairly with our common sense, to offer this resolution as a proof to substantiate an accusation, made long before its adoption. This extraordinary paper is couched in language nearly similar to that employed by the executive in his speech, and sounds like its very echo. The officers of the general government, are, in both, denominated a "*corps*" regularly "*organized*" to control and coerce the votes of electors. The meeting consisted of some

ten or twelve persons ; the chairman, (Mr. John E. Marshall) held an office under his excellency's administration ; and Oliver Forward, Esquire, collector of the customs, for the port of Buffalo, *and at the same time a Senator of this state*, drew up or presented this, with other resolutions, which were adopted by the meeting. The other resolutions alluded to, are annexed to this report, to show how little respect, this assemblage of ten or twelve "*citizens*" were disposed to pay to the legislative branch of the government, however obsequious they may have been to the executive branch. The letters and affidavits referred to, are marked "Resolutions of the citizens of Buffalo," from No. 1 to No. 4, inclusive.

The conduct of the Judge of the United States, for the northern district of this state, and of the District Attornies for the northern and southern districts, is next adverted to. With respect to Judge Skinner, it is only necessary to remark, that he was elevated to the bench, subsequently to his election to the Senate, where he now holds his seat, by the voice of the people and the sanction of the constitution. He is independent of the general government, for the tenure of his judicial station ; and above the suspicion of violating his allegiance to this state, under any circumstances.

The committee cannot suppress their belief, that the clamour raised upon this subject, has been made to subserve other interests than those of the state, when they reflect, that notwithstanding how much has been said and written in relation to it, no attempt has to this day been made, to test the right of Judge Skinner to his seat. Either the Senate are unanimously of opinion, that the objections which have been taken are unfounded, or they have been greatly wanting in the discharge of their duty to the people.

The certificate of Israel Ketcham, marked X, of the documents communicated by the governor, is proved to be incorrect in all its parts, by the affidavits of Robert Tillotson, Esq. and of Mr. William Eaton, and the certificate of Major Samuel Cooper. The statement of Mr. Ketcham, is too improbable to be credited, independent of all contradictory evidence. He certifies, that Mr. Eaton declared, that he was in Mr. Tillotson's office in April last; and there heard Mr. Tillotson direct a gentleman to go to certain persons in the western district, and promise them any offices they wanted in that quarter, in the gift of the general government. Is it by certificates of this loose nature, that the existence of an 'organized and disciplined corps' of national officers, is to be substantiated? Will the people tolerate such an attempt, to enlist their prejudices against the government of the Union? The story, "that two men had been sent from Washington last spring, to oppose the re-election of De Witt Clinton, whose expenses were paid at Washington," is equally incredible; and Major Cooper, who is designated by Mr. Ketcham, as the author of the statement to him, declares "*the whole to be a base fabrication, absolutely false, and without the least shadow of foundation.*" The documents referred to, are marked from No. 1 to No. 4, inclusive.

A perusal of the letter from Jacob Sutherland Esq. and the documents therein referred to, marked "District Attorney, for the northern district," Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, will show, that the charge against that gentleman was unfounded. Indeed, the allegation is not only an impeachment of his moral integrity, but if true, would have subjected him to a heavy penalty under our laws, and disqualified him from holding any office within this state; and it is therefore not surprising, that he should have felt indignant at the effort made by the chief

magistrate of the state, to fix upon him so foul an imputation. The person, whose affidavit contained the aspersion, (R. W. Rulifson) is a *boy of eighteen years of age*, who, either ignorantly or malevolently represented as general opinion, the idle conversation of a few individuals, whom he refused to name. Mr. Sutherland does not deny his earnest solicitude, for the success of the republican candidates, at the last election; but protests against the doctrine, that his rights as a citizen, are forfeited or impaired by his holding a commission under the United States.

The official conduct of the post-master-general, furnishes a prominent topic of complaint, in the communication of his excellency; and one, upon which the greatest reliance is placed by him, in his attempt to implicate the administration of the general government. The substance of his excellency's charge, upon this subject, is, that the post-master-general, previous, and preparatory to the last election of governor in this state, removed several deputy post-masters, *because they were the political friends of the executive, and with a view to deter others from his support.* This conduct of the post-master-general, is pressed with much warmth, by his excellency, as furnishing, when added to the charges insinuated against the President, the Secretaries of State, of the Treasury, and of the Navy, the most satisfactory evidence, that the President, and the heads of all the departments of the general government, save one, were engaged in an organized conspiracy, against the freedom and purity of our elections. To increase the odium of that officer's conduct, his excellency has seen fit, to contrast it with that of his predecessor, and to indulge in the unqualified assertion, that "during the able and impartial administration of the predecessor of the present post-master-general, those

“ offices were conferred without any reference to state politics.”

From the documents communicated to the committee, they are well satisfied, not only that the complaints of his excellency are wholly unfounded, but that there is good reason to question the correctness of his remark, in relation to the conduct of the former post-master-general. While, however, the committee feel it their duty to lay before the Legislature the evidence, to disprove the allegations of the governor, in this particular, they desire not to be considered as admitting that the conduct of the post-master-general would have been subject to just censure, if he had made the selections for those appointments, from among the republican citizens of this state, who are not included in his excellency's denomination of “ friends of the state administration.” For, although the committee are not the advocates of political intolerance, or of injustice of any kind, they can neither stifle nor abandon the conviction, that a just and patriotic administration ought to confer its favours on those, who, at periods of great public embarrassment, as well as of national peril, have sustained and supported the government, in preference to those who are, and have been incessant in their labours, to stigmatise its motives, and frustrate its efforts in the public cause. In this state, at least, and in this particular, this course, which is dictated by justice, and would be consecrated by patriotism, the committee regret to be obliged to say, has not been pursued.

The post-masters, whose removals are complained of, are Halsey Rogers, Levi McKeen, Alpheus Doty, Stephen B. Leonard, Samuel Smith, Slade D. Brown, Hezekiah L. Granger, Nathan Chamberlain, and David Holt.

The documents marked “ Post-Office,” from No. 1 to No. 14, relate to this subject.

No. 1, shows that the post-master-general was not actuated by the motives attributed to him.

No. 2, that Halsey Rogers was removed, at the instance of the two members of Congress, representing the district in which he resides, (one of them, Mr. Gross, an avowed and distinguished political friend of the executive,) on the ground that "*the people had lost all confidence in him, as a public officer.*"

No. 3, is a letter from Mr. Schuyler, the member of Congress from the district in which Mr. McKeen resides, stating the grounds on which his removal was asked. In addition to this letter, a great number of letters, affidavits, and other documents, being the papers on which this removal was made, have been laid before the committee, which incontestibly show, that the removal of Mr. McKeen, and the appointment of Mr. Van Ness, were called for by all parties, and on grounds wholly disconnected with politics. The great length of the documents, has prevented their being incorporated with this report, and they are therefore filed with the clerk of the assembly.

Nos. 4, 5, and 6, show the grounds on which Messrs. Doty, Smith, and Brown, were removed, and that they were not political. It is conceded by the message of his excellency, that the alleged reasons for the removals of Messrs. Holt, Leonard, and Chamberlain, were other than political; and the committee are persuaded that the reasons assigned by the post-master-general, are those by which he was actuated.

No. 7, is submitted to show, that the application for the removal of Mr. Chamberlain, originated with the representatives from the county in which he resided.

The papers, No. 8, 9, 10, and 11, will enable the Legislature to estimate the justice of the attempt,

on the part of his excellency, to implicate the conduct of the present post-master-general, by contrasting it with that of his predecessor. These documents shew, that the very gentleman (Mr. Monnell) who first called on the post-master-general, on the subject of the recent removals in this state, and who has been among the most vehement in denouncing those measures, received the appointment of post-master from the late post-master-general, *upon a removal, one of the avowed causes of which, was, that the former incumbent, Mr. Woodruff, had supported Morgan Lewis, for the office of governor of this state.* But this is not all. They further shew that the abuses of the post-office department, in this state, have been for years, a subject of complaint; and that blank commissions or warrants were entrusted to his excellency the present governor, and the present chief justice, by the late post-master-general, leaving the selection of the officer to their discretion. *How far that discretion was expected to be influenced by political considerations, the cotemporaneous letter of the chief justice, and the known political course and temper of the gentlemen by whom it was to be exercised, cannot fail to indicate.*

Nos. 12, 13, and 14, explain the transaction, in relation to which the conduct of Mr. Borland is censured. The whole affair is, in the opinion of the committee, too trifling and irrelevant to require one single remark.

The certificate and affidavits, marked A, B, C, D, and E, relate to the reception given to the Vice-President, last spring, upon his arrival at New-York from this city. This appears to have been projected and conducted by "*mititia officers*," who having formerly served under him, felt anxious to exhibit a mark of their entire confidence in his integrity and patriotism, notwithstanding the obloquy which had been heaped upon him. This tribute

of respect, paid to the Vice-President by the *militia officers*, was nothing more than a voluntary testimonial of gratitude for public services; the officers of the general government had no considerable participation in the arrangement; and an indescribable obliquity of perception alone, could have discovered in it, the manifestation of a design to corrupt the purity, or to prostrate the independence of state government.

The declarations attributed to Dr. John H. Sackett, are positively denied in his letter, marked F; and the certificate of Lieut. W. D. Agur, marked G, corroborates such denial. Admitting, however, that Dr. Sackett had used the expression ascribed to him, it may be asked, is a declaration made at a breakfast table, in a public boarding-house, seriously considered by his excellency, as proof of the organization of the officers of the general government, "to break down the power of the state?"

The committee lament, that loose and inadvertant observations, are thus treasured up by the executive, inasmuch as it furnishes some ground for the belief, that a system of espionage is in operation, and that the movements of our citizens are watched, and their words marked down to their prejudice; a system, inconsistent with the spirit of our free institutions, and subversive of all independence of action, and of the freedom of speech; a system which must inhibit social intercourse, and excite animosities, fatal alike to our moral happiness and political prosperity.

Upon a careful examination of the documents thus recapitulated, the committee feel confident, that the conviction of every mind must be, that the charge made by his excellency against the general administration and their officers in this state, has not been substantiated, and is wholly unfounded. The committee must express their unfeigned re-

gret, that his excellency had not deemed it consistent with his ideas of respect for the general government, to have solicited an enquiry into the subject of his accusation, before a positive charge had been preferred. The agitation of the public mind, and of the national legislature, relative to the admission of Missouri into the union, and the then approaching presidential election might, and in the opinion of the committee, ought to have indicated to his excellency, that the time which he selected to arraign the conduct of the national administration and of its officers, was peculiarly inauspicious.

The frequency with which attempts to excite similar alarms, have been made, from the same quarter, has proved highly prejudicial to the character of our state, and has sullied her dignity.— Her influence in the union has been checked; her prosperity at home diminished; the tranquility of her citizens disturbed; and the most bitter political animosities engendered. So often the theatre on which hostility to the general government has been displayed, this state has, in a measure, lost the confidence of the wise and good men of other states; and we regret to say, is too much regarded as the focus of intrigue, around which the discontented of all parties rally, and raise the standard of disaffection. Her wealth, her resources, her public spirit, and her patriotism, entitle New-York to a distinguished rank in the nation, and demand that the policy which has hitherto impeded her merited elevation, should be abandoned, and a more liberal and enlightened course pursued; a course which shall be characterised by magnanimous and manly feeling, ingenuous towards the national administration, respectful to our sister states, and honorable to ourselves. Nothing can be gained, but every thing is hazarded, by a policy which tends to excite discord and discontent between the general and state

governments; and the peculiar organization of our republic, renders harmony between them, indispensable to their permanency. Mutual dependence, ought to ensure mutual confidence; unfounded jealousies beget recrimination, and ought never to be indulged. This confidence between the general and state governments, being once destroyed, and these jealousies once aroused, who can anticipate, without serious apprehensions, the consequences which must ensue. Then, indeed, would the "aspirations of ambition," have full scope, the fair fabric of our liberties be prostrated, and the majesty of the people humbled, before the sceptre of some successful tyrant. If the hope expressed by his excellency, that "impartial posterity" will applaud him for his "conduct on this occasion," can afford him any consolation, the committee feel no wish to dispel the flattering illusion; but they cannot refrain from expressing their entire conviction, that from the just censure of the present generation, he cannot escape.

The committee offer, for the consideration of the Legislature, the following resolution:

Resolved, (if the honorable the Senate concur herein,) That the accusation made by his excellency the governor, against the officers of the general government, charging them with interfering, as an "*organized and disciplined corps*," in our elections, and of violating the "*purity and independence of our local government*," has not been substantiated, and is wholly unfounded.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the joint committee.

SAMUEL B. ROMAINÉ, *Chairman.*

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying the foregoing Report.

NAVY YARD.

No. 1.

We certify, that we were inspectors of the election, held in the town of Brooklyn, in Kings county, on the 25th, 26th, and 27th days of last April, that we saw Col. John P. Decatur, at the poll every day of said election, and that we saw nothing unlawful, or dishonorable in his conduct, or in the conduct of any of the officers of the general government, at said election. And we further certify, that to our knowledge, no persons were unlawfully polled by us, at said election.

Jerem. Johnson, Supervisor.

John Ryerson, Jr.

John Doughty, Town Clerk.

Jordan Coles, Jr.

Joseph Mosery, Inspector.

Daniel Lott, Inspector.

No. 2.

County of Kings, ss.—John P Decatur, naval store keeper, stationed at the navy yard, Brooklyn, county of Kings, being duly sworn, says, that at the last spring election of Governor, Lieut. Gov. &c. this deponent opposed the election of De Witt Clinton, Esquire ; that deponent was zealous and active in such opposition, and exerted his personal influence to defeat the views of Mr. Clinton's friends, who in return, did the same towards their opposing candidate; that deponent, from the nature of his office and employment, has not and cannot have any command over, or even *official* influence upon the *caulkers, riggers, ship carpenters, blacksmiths, &c.* employed in and about the navy-yard, as will be more clearly manifested, by referring to the articles, rules and regulations, for the better government of the navy, which are as follows—"The duty of the naval store keeper is, that he shall take charge of all stores, provisions, and munitions of war, and all stores, houses, and timber sheds, shall be under his charge, and he shall examine and receipt all accounts rendered for purchases."

And the said Decatur further says, that he was not influenced in his conduct at said election, by the general government of the United States, or by any officer, dependant, or agent thereof, or by any person or persons whatever, but that he followed the dictates of his heart, arising from his conviction, that Mr. Clin-

ton was *unworthy the support of the republican party*. And the said Decatur furthur says, that he never heard or understood that the general government of the United States, interfered in the state elections, or that there was an "organized corps" of officers of said general government, acting or influencing, or interfering, in the election of officers of the state government, until so informed last fall, by a message from his excellency governor Clinton, to the legislature of this state, and which is the only authority the said Decatur is acquainted with, relative to that circumstance; but that as far as is meant or intended by certain documents lately furnished by his excellency governor Clinton, to include said Decatur in the above *mentioned corps*, such documents are *untrue*; and that with regard to the Rev. Mr. Ireland, Mr. Hunt, Purser Wise, and Sailing Master Bloodgood, nothing passed to or from the said John P. Decatur, more or otherwise than is usual between friends, during elections, and with which the general government has nothing to do. And furthur this deponent saith not. JOHN P. DECATUR.

Sworn before me, at Brooklyn, Kings
county, the 13th day of Feb. 1821.

Isaac Nichols, justice of the peace.

No. 3.

City of New-York. ss.—Abraham B. Bloodgood, of the town of Brooklyn, being duly sworn, says, that the dispute which occurred at the last spring election, held for Governor, Lt. Governor, &c. between myself and Harvey Patcham, was of a private nature (and not as has been represented in a certificate heretofore published, of a political) nature. And I do further swear and declare, that I was not biassed or influenced by any officer of the general government, during the said election.

AB. B. BLOODGOOD.

Sworn before me, the 12th day
of Feb. 1821.

Police-Office—*Chas. Christian, Jus. Peace.*

No. 4.

I do hereby make known, that at the late election for Governor, for the state of New-York, I was neither influenced nor threatened by Col. John P. Decatur, or any other person, respecting my vote; that the respectable naval officers on this station, are too much of the gentlemen, and true American, to make use of their power on such occasions. That I enjoy my freedom and independence—have, and always will vote agreeable to my own feelings. That the affidavits accompanying the Governor's message, are erroneous, as respects myself.

AMOS DICKINSON.

Navy-Yard, New-York, Feb. 2, 1821.

Kings County, ss.—Amos Dickinson, personally appeared before me, and being sworn, depose and saith, that the above statement is just and true. Sworn before me at Brooklyn, the 3d day of Feb. 1821.

ISAAC NICHOLS, *Jus. Peace.*

No. 5.

I do hereby certify, that at the late election for Governor of the state of New-York, I was neither influenced or threatened by Col. John P. Decatur, or any other person, respecting my vote; that the respectable naval officers on this station are too much of gentlemen to make use of undue means on such occasions—I have always enjoyed my liberty in voting as I pleased, and always will. The affidavits accompanying the Governor's message are erroneous, as respects myself.

AMSOS CHENY.

Sworn to before me, this 3d day of Feb. 1821.

Gabriel Winter, Commissioner, &c.

City of New-York.

No. 6.

This is to certify, that on the last election for Governor, &c. for the state of New-York, that I was in no respect bribed, or forced to vote against De Witt Clinton, by any officer in the navy-yard.

JAMES COSGROVE,

Gunner of the United States Navy-Yard, N. Y.

The above sworn to before me, at Brooklyn,
this 2d day of February, 1821.

Isaac Nichols, Justice of the Peace.

No. 7.

Whereas it has been represented to me, that I stand charged with having, on a late occasion, been induced, by persuasion of Col. Decatur, and the officers of the U. States' government, on this station, to vote contrary to my own inclination, and in a manner prescribed by them—This is to certify, and I hereby solemnly aver, that neither Col. Decatur, nor any other officer of the general government, influenced me in my vote on the late election for governor, lieut. governor, &c. &c.

J. G. F. HUNT, *Surgeon U. S. Navy.*

No. 8.

Whereas it has been represented to me, that I stand charged with having, on a late occasion, been induced, by the threats of Col. John P. Decatur, to vote contrary to my own inclination, and in a manner prescribed by himself—This is to certify, and I hereby solemnly aver, that neither Col. Decatur, nor any other man, ever presumed to hold towards me the language of intimidation. My circumstances, my age, my profession, my character, render it impossible that I should have submitted, without a proper degree of resentment, to so gross an outrage on my conscience and feelings.

I readily admit, that Col. D. is one of my personal friends, and that I am friendly to the present administration of the general government; but I deny, that I am in the habit of allowing myself to be addressed, *from any quarter*, in a style of dictation, or intimidation. As an independent freeholder of this state, I have hitherto maintained, and ever will, fearlessly maintain my right to vote, as my own conscience and inclination may suggest.

JOHN IRELAND, *Chaplain U. S. Navy.*

Brooklyn, Kings county, 9th Feb. 1821.

No. 9.

Brooklyn, Feb. 24th, 1821.

Peter R. Livingston, Esq.

SIR—Having observed my name introduced amongst “the organized corps of the general government,” by Mr. Clinton, in his late communication to your honorable body, I am induced, from a false representation furnished the Governor, to make this communication; not in vindication of the part I took during the election, but in consequence of a publication of my expressions on that occasion.

By the certificate of Mr. Hunter, I am enumerated among the custom-house officers. This, sir, is false; I never have been a custom-house officer.—Mr. Hunter also quotes me as having observed, that Mr. Clinton was unfriendly to the general government. This I repeat; and that Mr. Clinton was unfriendly to the general government, I still believe. During the late war, a representation was made, by two respectable citizens of this state, to Mr. Clinton, as mayor of the city of New-York, that two men, Mr. Nostrand and Mr. Swinburne, had left Brooklyn ferry, with dispatches for the British squadron, at the Hook, prior to the sailing of the squadron under command of Commodore Rodgers. Mr. Clinton, on the representation, appeared much enraged, and promised that these men should be closely watched, and taken, on their return. But sir, here the matter ended; and these men boasted, and now boast that they did bear dispatches, and were well paid for it. This is not hear-say evidence alone. There are among the number of Mr. Clinton’s friends here, many, aware of this circumstance.

In a free country; in a country like this, the greatest prerogative of a free people is, to express their sentiments of public men and public measures. In addition to this, I considered that my influence, [if any I had] ought to be directed against the man, who, in the time of war, was “sighing for the golden days of commercial prosperity.” That Mr. Clinton did so, he cannot deny.

I am a republican; and Mr. Clinton may rest assured, whether a *custom-house* officer or not, I shall, at any and every elec-

tion hereafter, come forward against him, with redoubled vigor; and so far as my influence will extend, I shall always consider it my duty, as a republican, to exert that influence against his Excellency, and his corps of Swiss office hunters.

You are at liberty to make use of the facts herein stated, if you think proper.

Very respectfully,

I am your ob't. serv't.

BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTON, Jr.

I shall address you more fully, in the course of a few days.

B. L. Jr.

No. 10.

State of New-York, Kings County, ss.

George S. Wise, jr. a purser in the United States navy, stationed at the navy-yard, Brooklyn, L. I. being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he attended the election held in said town, for governor, lieut. governor, &c. in the spring of the year 1820; and that being averse to Governor Clinton's political course, this deponent did, at said election, use all honorable and legal means in his power, to oppose Gov. Clinton's re-election; that deponent was, moreover, swayed by political and personal attachment to the Vice-President, to promote his success.

That deponent, as a citizen of a free government, believes he has the right guaranteed to him by the constitution and laws of his country, to express his opinion of his governors, at the elections, by his vote, and by all honorable and legal means to advance the interest of his favorite candidate; under which belief this deponent has done so.

That deponent, from the nature of his office, has not, and cannot have any command whatever over the ship carpenters, caulkers, block-makers, joiners, blacksmiths, or other workmen employed in the navy-yard; nor has he ever influenced or attempted to influence any of them in their vote at the last spring election, by threats or promises.

That deponent never was influenced, in *any manner*, in his political conduct, by the interference of the general government of the United States, or any of its officers; nor has he ever heard or otherwise understood, that any officer had been so influenced. That deponent never knew, suspected, or believed, the said general government had a corps of its officers, or of any other persons, organized, to influence, sway, or otherwise interfere in the elections, in this or any other state in the union, until so informed by a certain message of Governor Clinton, to the legislature of this state, upon which point deponent is satisfied his excellency the governor has been imposed upon. And deponent further says, that all he did at the last or any other election, was done by him in his individual capacity, without reference to any higher or other authority or object.

GEO. S. WISE, Jr.

Sworn to this twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one, before me, *William Furman, Judge.*

No. 11.

We, the undersigned, inhabitants and freeholders in the town of Brooklyn, Long-Island, and state of New-York, do most solemnly declare, that we were at the poll, at different times, during last spring election for Governor, Lieut. Governor, &c. where we saw Mr. George S. Wise, Jr. purser of the navy-yard; that as far as his conduct at the poll came within our observation and knowledge, it was honorable as an officer and a gentleman; that although he evinced an anxious zeal to promote the election of his favorite candidate, yet we did not discover any act on his part, to bias or influence, by improper or illegal means, the vote of any individual at the poll. And we further declare, as our opinion and belief, that the said George S. Wise, Jr. was not actuated or influenced by any other motive than that of a conscientious exercise of those rights which the laws and constitution of his country had granted to him.

Brooklyn, L. I., 18th Feb. 1821.

William R. Dean,
John Dean,
Alex. Robinson,
Brockholst Livingston. Jr.
Abr. Young,
Aime J. Barbarin,
William Henry.
Joseph Herbert,
Wm. Philip,
Burdet Stryker,
Daniel Wright,
Evert Barkeloe,
G. W. Statesley,
Stephen S. Voris,
John Laurence,

James Titus,
Ryke Reed,
John G. Murphy,
Calvin Morehouse,
Edward Coope,
Uriah Ryder,
Jacob M. Cooper,
John B. Bedell,
Thomas Burroghs,
George Hariland,
Gabriel Leverich,
Nicholas Vanduyne,
Martin Schenck,
John Seaman.

No. 12.

At the last election for governor, lieutenant governor, &c. I was an inspector at the poll. I declare, that the conduct of George S. Wise, jun. purser of the navy-yard, was correct and honorable—that he attended no one at the poll box, whose vote was not legal and accepted—that to the best of my knowledge and belief, he did not attempt to bias or influence, by undue means, the vote of any individual. And it is further my opinion and belief, he was actuated by no other motives than those of exercising the right, which the laws of his country, and its constitution guaranteed him.

Signed this nineteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

JOSEPH MOSERY.

No. 13.

Kings County, State of New-York.—William A. Sale, master mason, residing in the village of Brooklyn, being duly sworn, saith, that he has been acquainted with George S. Wise, jun. Esq. for the last two years ; that during that time, this deponent has more or less been employed as a mason in his service ; that during the time antecedent to the late election for governor, lieutenant governor, &c. of the state of New-York, that said George S. Wise, jun. Esq. did not attempt to influence him and those in his employ—that to the best of his observation and belief, neither said George S. Wise, nor any other officer attached to the navy-yard, used any improper or dishonorable means to influence the *votes* of *any* individual employed in the yard—This deponent further saith, he had frequent opportunities of hearing the opinion of the mechanics and others employed in the navy-yard, and from the best of his recollection, knowledge and belief, that none of them expressed an opinion, that George S. Wise, jr. or any other officer, attached to the navy-yard, attempted to influence them, by improper or illegal means, or by threats or promises. This deponent further saith, that the conduct of George S. Wise, was honorable and unexceptionable, at the poll—And that this deponent further saith, as his belief, that said George S. Wise, jr. was actuated by no other motive than a conscientious exercise of those rights and privileges, which the laws and constitution of his country had permitted him to exercise.

WILLIAM A. SALE.

Taken and sworn to, before me, at Brooklyn, the 24th day of February, 1821. *Isaac Nichols, justice of the peace.*

CUSTOM-HOUSE, NEW-YORK.

No. 1.

NEW-YORK, 1st Feb. 1821.

To *Samuel B. Romaine, Esq.*

Chairman of the Committee upon the Governor's Message.

SIR—Your letter of the 25th ult. has been duly received, and I have now the honor to reply to the governor's attack against me.

In relation to my political conduct, I have exercised the right which the governor *admits* in his message, to be the right of every citizen, that of *expressing my opinion of the conduct of public men* ; I have deemed the governor's political conduct to be unwise and incorrect, and therefore discharged the right of a citizen and a freeholder, by opposing his election.

I never knew nor heard of any organized or disciplined corps, formed by, or acting under the countenance of the general government, nor of its officers, nor of any other persons "*advancing against this state, with its combined and concentrated forces,*" until the governor asserted it in his message; and to the best of my knowledge and belief, none such has ever existed.

In relation to the custom-house officers, I have never, in an individual instance, used any species of influence over their political sentiments or conduct; they have never by me nor by my consent, been "*intimidated into neutrality,*" nor have they had any cause to "*apprehend personal injury from the desperation of detected malefactors;*" but on the contrary, they have been properly left, to act agreeably to their own wills and judgments. Their political sentiments have been indifferent and unknown to me, until within a few days since, when I learned that a large number of them were the political *friends* of the governor, and that they had voted accordingly at the last election, as they had a right to do, and that, without "*looking to a particular quarter for favors.*"

The most important and valuable office in my gift (my deputy) was conferred upon the governor's political friend, whose sentiments I never knew until last week. This simple fact, is, in itself, a severe comment upon the governor's attack against me, and a more severe comment upon his own political course.

The governor infers, that I had ascertained the "*sense of my political superior, and had been instructed to act accordingly.*"—The whole of this inference and insinuation, is an unfounded suspicion, whether the governor alludes to the President, to my official superiors, or to any other person.

I enclose, herewith, documents from the deputy surveyor, the inspectors, &c. which will show that I have not deserved the epithets and insinuations which the governor has bestowed upon me.

The governor has entrenched himself behind his own admissions, that a "*considerable portion of his allegations may be refuted,*" and behind his assertions that a "*sufficient number will remain to prove the existence of an organized and disciplined corps of officers of the general government.*" Notwithstanding these, his maze of assertions, doubts, suspicions, and insinuations, every intelligent man in the United States, who may peruse them, will believe them to be unfounded charges; through which, however, is plainly to be seen the real object of the message, to wit, to excite dissention between the confederated union and particular states.

I am your respectful hum'bl. servt.

J. G. SWIFT.

No. 2.

New-York, January 26, 1821.

Gen. J. G. SWIFT,

Surveyor of the port of New-York.

SIR—In perusing the late message of Gov. Clinton, to the legislature of this state, we observe with astonishment, a most unwarrantable and egregious attack upon those who compose that section of the custom-house department which comes under your particular direction; and an attempt to impose upon the public, an opinion highly injurious to the unblemished reputation which is so justly attached to your name.

With a view, therefore, to counteract any unfavorable impressions, which the allegations in this *very singular* document may produce upon the public mind, and feeling that we are not that abject set of wretches, who are to be made the tools of party, or will submit in silence, to an unprovoked insult; we have thought proper to execute, and present to you, the following certificate, with a request, that with this communication, it might be laid before the public, at such time, and in such manner, as you may think proper.

CERTIFICATE.

We the undersigned inspectors, weighers, guagers, measurers, &c. attached to the department of customs over which Gen. Joseph G. Swift has the honor to preside, (as surveyor of the port and district of New-York) do hereby certify, and solemnly declare, that we never conversed with, or heard him express an opinion upon any political subject whatever, and should have been, to this day, entirely ignorant of his political principles, but from observations of his conduct, while acting in concert with others on public occasions. And that our suffrages were given at the late election, uninfluenced by our relative situations, or the control of any person or power whatever.

In testimony whereof, we have signed our respective names, this 26th day of January, 1821.

Ben. Wood,
Geo. Howard,
E. P. Warne,
Gerret Forbes,
J. Tallman,
Jacob Stoutenburgh,
Peter Kinnan,
John Morris,
John Woodward,
J. Waterman,
H. A. Vedder,
George Innes,
John Gelston,

Nathaniel Hunt,
William R. Thompson,
Eben. M'Donald,
James W. Gray,
Abm. Bokee,
E. Nexsen, Jun.
J. Mitchell,
J. Board,
Thos. Darling,
Jas. M'Keoy,
Char. Duryee,
Walter Seaman,
Bez. L. Howe,

Zadock Hedden,
 Wm. Keeff,
 Jno. Whittelsey,
 S. Sullivan,
 Lawrence Myer,
 James Anderson,
 Jacob Ludlum,
 Dennis Stricker,
 C. Rider,
 Peter R. Sprainger,
 Jos. Morrison,
 Thomas Waring,
 R. Hunter,
 Chas. Chipp,
 Donald M^rLean,
 Stephen Crane,
 Lee Peek,
 Geo. W. Cooke,
 Rich'd. Ward,
 Ephraim Snow,
 Sam'l. Marvin,
 Geo. G. Bemas,

W. Morton,
 J. Cutler,
 J. Porter,
 John H. Leggett,
 Richd. Nixon,
 Andrew Van Tuyl,
 B. Duvoy,
 Andrew Norwood.
 John Van Darlein,
 Bernardus Rider,
 Isaac Keeler,
 Wm. Philips,
 John Carne,
 Daniel Nash,
 Daniel Johnston,
 Jacob Van Winkle,
 Ezekl. Dodge,
 John T. Cluett,
 John Van Dyk,
 Daniel Dodge,
 Wm. Arnett,
 W. V. Beuren.

No. 3.

New-York, Feb. 1st, 1821.

J. G. SWIFT, Esq. *Surveyor, port of New-York.*

SIR—I have seen, with regret, (in the public papers of this city) a communication from his Excellency the Governor, to the legislature of this state, setting forth, among others, that the inspectors of the customs had acted under the influence of the surveyor of this port, at a late election for Governor, &c. &c. Sir, I received the appointment of inspector of the customs, for this district, in September, 1815; and I do declare, that no attempt has been made, by my superiors in office, to influence my vote or opinion, since I have been attached to the revenue department. I do further declare, that I have a personal friendship and regard for Governor Clinton, and that my vote would have been given to him, in preference, if I had possessed one.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your ob't. serv't.

B. M. VAN BEUREN.

No. 4.

New-York, January 31, 1821.

SIR—I have seen, with much regret, a communication in the newspapers of our city, made by Gov. Clinton, to the Legislature of this state, in which he charges you with having exercised, at the last spring election, an undue influence over the custom-house officers. To the best of my knowledge and be-

Nef, this charge is totally unfounded. So far from your influencing, or attempting to influence any of those officers, I am certain that many of them did vote in favor of Mr. Clinton's administration ; and I take this opportunity to declare, that so far from entertaining any fear of offence, in exercising my own right of suffrage, I have publicly expressed my opinions ; and I did vote for those gentlemen, for members of the Legislature, who were considered friendly to Gov. Clinton, except four, who were on the opposite ticket ; and this exception arose from private friendship and esteem.

I remain sir, your most obedient, and very hum'bl. servt.

S. TERRY, *Dep. Surveyor.*

Jos. G. SWIFT, Esq. *Surveyor of the Port of New-York.*

No. 5.

New-York, 3d February, 1821.

Samuel B. Romaine, Esq.

SIR—As my name is mentioned in the late message of the governor, as having exerted my influence in opposition to Mr. Clinton, at the late election in our city, I think proper to communicate to you the following remarks. I am a resident of the fifth ward, and did not attend the poll at the last election, on no day thereof, except for the purpose of voting. And I solemnly aver, that the statement of John Peterson, (as far as it relates to me,) is false, and without any foundation in truth.

I did see, at the time of giving my vote, two officers of the customs, from both of which I received tickets ; the one opposed to, and the other in favor of Mr. Clinton.

Yours, respectfully,

GEORGE INNES, *Inspector of the Revenue.*

No. 6.

New-York, 3d February, 1821.

I, Thomas Darling, of the fifth ward of the city of New-York, do solemnly declare, that the certificate accompanying the late message of Mr. Clinton, to the house of assembly of this state, (signed John Peterson,) stating that I did attend the poll of said ward, during the *greater* part of the late election for governor, &c. is not *truth*, inasmuch as I was not at said poll more than three *hours*. I acknowledge, while at the poll, I did distribute tickets in favor of Daniel D. Tompkins, and did then and there see other officers of the customs warmly engaged in promoting the election of De Witt Clinton ; and I aver, that I was not influenced by any person whomsoever, in my opposition to Mr. Clinton—And moreover, I only attended the poll, when not called by my official duties elsewhere.

Yours respectfully,

THOS. DARLING, *Inspector of the Revenue.*

No. 7.

Samuel B. Romaine, Esq.

SIR—Being brought before the public, by a document accompanying the governor's message to the house of assembly, I beg leave to trouble you with a few incidents relative to myself. I am a republican, and did exercise my right of suffrage at the late election, by which it appears, I have given offence, in not retiring immediately from the poll, after having deposited my vote ; and having never before heard, that to hold an office under the general government, it was necessary to relinquish the privileges of a citizen, I devoted my time, not called for in the discharge of my official duties, to the promotion of the republican cause, at the last spring election. During the whole of the time I attended the poll, a brother officer was as zealously engaged in promoting the election of Mr. Clinton, as I was that of Mr. Tompkins—And I believe there were as many officers of the customs engaged in the interest of Mr. Clinton, as there were against him. And I do solemnly declare, that in the whole of my conduct, at the late election, I was not under the influence of fear or favor of any person.

I am, sir, with much respect,

Your humble servant,

BEN. WOOD, *Inspector of the Revenue.*

No. 8.

New-York, 3d February, 1821.

I, James Anderson, (freeman, and of lawful age,) of the fifth ward of the city of New-York, do declare, that in every respect, I did, at the last election, exercise what I esteem an unalienable right, viz. giving my vote for whom I thought proper, and of freely expressing my opinion of public men and measures ; and that in so doing, I did not act under the influence of any person, but according to my own reason, and in the exercise of the rights guaranteed to me by the spirit and letter of our free constitution and laws. It appears, however, that the only reason why I am assailed for so doing, is, because I was unfriendly to the election of Mr. Clinton ; which reason is not only absurd, but highly ridiculous ; for it is notorious, that there were men in the same office with myself, who were more zealous, if possible, in Mr. Clinton's interest, than I was in that of Mr. Tompkins. And I do aver, that there were, and are now in the office, a number of gentlemen, who are warmly in the interest of Mr. Clinton ; and that no means were interposed, to my knowledge and belief, to prevent the free exercise of their rights, at the last election.

JAMES ANDERSON.

No. 9.

I, Carroll M. Gahagan, do hereby certify, that during the three days of the last spring election, I frequently attended

the poll of the 5th ward ; that I saw George G. Burras attending said poll ; that he was warmly and zealously supporting the election of De Witt Clinton, as governor ; and that the said Burras was then inspector of the customs, and in the employ of the custom-house.

And I do further certify, that I have been personally acquainted with James Anderson, inspector of the customs, for the last fifteen years, during which time he has uniformly and decidedly espoused the cause of the republican party, both previous and subsequent to his appointment in the custom-house : That I also frequently saw Benjamin Wood, at said election, but I saw nothing dishonorable or improper in the conduct either of Burras, Anderson, or Wood ; that they only exercised those rights and privileges which are guaranteed to every citizen, by the laws of our country, and which John Peterson made use of in favor of De Witt Clinton, under whom he holds an appointment, as freely as Anderson and Wood, did in favor of D. D. Tompkins.

C. M. GAHAGAN.

New-York, February 2d, 1821.

CUSTOM-HOUSE, STATEN-ISLAND.

No. 1.

We, the undersigned inspectors of the last spring election, for the town of Castleton, in the county of Richmond, having lately seen several certificates from some of the inhabitants of the town, implicating the conduct of the two inspectors of the customs, stationed at Staten-Island, Mr. Wm. Van Buren and Mr. William Arnett, charging them with violent and improper conduct at the poll of said election, and with browbeating, and denouncing the electors friendly to the election of Governor Clinton, do certify : That the said charges are entirely groundless and unfounded ; but that their conduct, as far as it was witnessed by us, was temperate, orderly, and peaceable throughout, and that no disposition was evinced by either of these gentlemen, to outrage the feelings, or to interrupt or prevent, the peaceable exercise of the right of suffrage of any individual present. And we do further certify, that the conduct of John W. Blake, one of the signers of the certificates alluded to, was extremely outrageous and scandalous, especially on the last day of the election, when it became so violent and disorderly, as to excite serious apprehensions in our minds, for the safety of the ballot boxes ; and if the proper officer had been present, we should have felt ourselves compelled, by a sense of duty, to have committed him to gaol.

TUNIS EGBERT,
JACOB TYSEN,
JOHN MERSEREAU.

Richmond County, town of Castleton, Feb. 26, 1821.

No. 2.

I certify, that I attended at the poll, at Mr. Thomas Hazard's, in the town of Castleton, in April last, and that I had an opportunity, while there, of observing the conduct of Mr. William Van Beuren, and Mr. William Arnett, the two inspectors of customs, stationed at Staten-Island, and that so far as it was witnessed by me, it was discreet, orderly and peaceable, throughout; and that no undue or improper means were resorted to by either of these gentlemen, to influence any of the electors in the exercise of their right of suffrage. And having lately seen among the documents accompanying the governor's message to the assembly, several certificates, in which they were charged with violent and indecorous conduct, while at the poll, with browbeating and denouncing the electors friendly to the election of Gov. Clinton, and with displaying a reprehensible activity in favor of the candidate opposed to him; I do feel myself obliged, in justice to the individuals implicated, to state, that I believe the allegations contained in said certificates, to be groundless, with the exception of the declarations ascribed to Mr. Van Beuren, respecting John W. Blake. And I do further certify, that on the morning of the impending election, Mr. Arnett, in conversation with me, stated, that he should not attempt to influence his bargemen, in their votes, for that he deemed such conduct improper.

JOHN T. HARRISON.

Castleton, Richmond county, January 27th, 1821.

No. 3.

County of Richmond, to wit.—Personally appeared before me, Winant Hougwout, one of the justices of the peace, for the said county, Abraham Parker, of the town of Castleton, carpenter, who being duly sworn upon the holy evangelists, deposeth and saith, that on or about the month of November, 1819, he, this deponent, made a verbal agreement with his excellency Daniel D. Tompkins, for the purchase of two lots of ground, lying in the town of Castleton, and that he afterwards, upon the said lots being put into his possession, did execute to the said Daniel D. Tompkins, a certain promissory note, by which he, this deponent, bound himself to pay for the said lots of ground, in six months, the sum of three hundred dollars, either in money or carpenter's work. And further this deponent saith, that being unacquainted with the necessary forms entitling him to a vote, offered himself as a voter on the freehold ticket, and was challenged by Capt. John W. Blake, as to his competency, he not having the deed for the aforesaid lots, but supposed himself entitled to the privileges, in consequence of the aforesaid agreement: That he, this deponent, in consequence of being so challenged, immediately called on his excellency D. D. Tompkins, and received his deed, which was lying

ready for him. And this deponent further saith, that the execution of said deed was in consequence of his having, bona fide given his note as aforesaid, in the sum of three hundred dollars, and part of which had at the time of executing said deed, actually been paid by carpenter's work, done agreeable to the condition and tenor of said note ; and that there was no understanding, either direct or implied, that he, this deponent, would, in consequence, forward the election of the said Daniel D. Tompkins ; nor did he, this deponent, there or elsewhere, ever make any declaration to the above effect. And this deponent further saith, that he has seen a certain certificate of Richard E. Blake, of this county, in which he says that this deponent stated to him, the said Blake, that said lots of ground were a present from the said Daniel D. Tompkins, to him, and at the time of his, the said Blake, seeing the deed thereof, the same was not yet dry—he, this deponent, solemnly declares the same to be untrue—he, this deponent, having at no time whatever, made any declaration to that effect ; on the contrary, it was well known that the same was a fair and just transaction, and had no reference whatever to the then impending election. And further this deponent saith not.

ABRAHAM PARKER.

Sworn before me, this 23d day of January, 1821.

Winant Houghwout, justice.

No. 4.

Richmond County, ss.—William Van Beuren, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he has lately observed a certificate of John W. Blake, relative to his expressions, during the first day of the election, held at the house of Thomas Hazard, jun. at the Quarantine Ground ; which expressions he did use, under the following circumstances :

The father of this deponent, and his family, during the revolutionary contest, did support that cause which gave birth to American independence ; the former, at the expense of his fortune, and risk of his life. My eldest brother was in the contest during that war, by which he suffered the loss of considerable property, by the British, and their partizans, the refugees, or Tories, so called : And a younger brother, a captain in the army, during the last opposition to British tyranny, in six or seven sharp rencounters with the common enemy of our republic, acquitted himself with much honor : That deponent has uniformly advocated the cause of republicanism, which he believed, and still believes to be the cause of his country. That at the late election, as first stated, where this deponent resides, one John W. Blake, whom he was informed, and verily believed, was what was termed a refugee, and had taken part with the British during the contest alluded to ; and that since that time he

had been shot in the hinder parts, from *stealing* from some of his neighbors. Such a person challenging my right of suffrage, [believing those reports to be true,] and the recollection of the sufferings we endured, during the war which achieved our independence, caused my passion to gain the ascendancy of my better judgment : Some person observed in my hearing, that such a man ought to be tarred and feathered, and I injudiciously said that I would give fifty dollars towards the expenses, to tar and feather him. After reflecting on what had passed, I went to the poll held at Mr. Vincent Bodines, about three miles from this place, expecting an opportunity of seeing Mr. Blake, in order to make a suitable apology for my unguarded expression, which I did ; and Mr. Blake there expressed his entire satisfaction, and said he would think no more of it. Respecting the other certificates, alluding to the election in this vicinity, there must be an extraordinary error ; for excepting that which occurred with respect to Mr. Blake, I believe that my conduct during the time I was at the poll, was as prudent and discreet as that of any other person. For in consequence of the difficulty with Mr. Blake, I was particularly cautious not to make use of any observations designedly to cause irritation. And as to his Excellency the Governor, I never did, to the best of my recollection, denounce him in that virulent manner which is declared in the certificates ; neither did I denounce or brow-beat any of Mr. Clinton's friends in the manner represented in the certificates ; the credibility of which will be for others to judge of hereafter.

This deponent further saith, that from the first period that Mr. Clinton was held up as a candidate in the political family, I supported him with unremitted zeal, (then an officer under the general government,) until I was satisfied, in my opinion, he had left the old republican school : and I trust I have now the same liberty of conscience, and the same elective franchises I had at that time : and the public have not, in the smallest degree whatsoever, suffered any inconvenience in my attention to the right of suffrage.

This deponent further saith, that on the 24th instant, in company with Messrs. Wm. Arnett and Caleb T. Ward, he waited on Wm. W. Blake, for an explanation alluding to the assertions contained in the certificate whereunto his name is affixed ; the same being read to him, I asked said Blake, whether he saw me or Mr. Arnett, at the poll, denouncing or brow-beating any individual ; he said he did not, neither did he see Mr. Wm. Arnett, after the first day of election, until the last day, in the evening, after the poll was closed ; that the certificate was a pack of stuff ; that he could neither read or write ; that two men came to his house, and wrote something ; he being in a frolick, authorized

his son to sign what they had written, and that he had been imposed upon; and on the 25th, the day following, I saw Mr. Wm. W. Blake and Richard E. Blake together, and both declared the same thing.

W. V. BEUREN.

Sworn to before me, Wm. S. Root, a public notary of the state of New-York, residing at the Quarantine Ground, Staten-Island, this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

Wm. S. Root, Notary Public.

No. 5.

Richmond County, ss.—William Arnett, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he believes that he is one of the officers in the United States service, referred to in a late message of Governor Clinton, to the legislature of the state of New-York.

That this deponent neither attended the poll, or influenced any person improperly or unjustly at the late election, excepting his attendance to give his vote, which, as a freeman and a citizen he had a right, and was bound to do; he refers to the annexed affidavits to shew, that he left every person subordinate to him to vote as their principles dictated, which liberty, it was currently reported, was not allowed by a conspicuous state officer, within the pale of the quarantine ground, whose sentiments differed from this deponent.

The public duties of this deponent, confined him to the quarantine establishment, and he there remained and attended to those duties, with the exception of a part of the first day, when the poll was held near his residence, but at the same time he attended to the vessels and other duties appertaining to his office, on the bay and shore. That he never attended the election at Bodine's until after the poll was finally closed, where he went after the duties of the day were performed, to ascertain the result of the canvass of Castleton. That the certificates of Wm. W. Blake and Richard E. Blake, which this deponent has seen as documents accompanying the said message of Governor Clinton, are false and unfounded, in one respect at least, as this deponent was never present at Bodine's during said election, until after the poll had closed.

The officers and citizens of the United States are, as this deponent conceives, deeply interested in every election, which decides the appointment or election of President and Vice-President of the nation: and he therefore conceives, that he, as a citizen of the state, a republican in profession and practice, an elector by right, and equally interested with his fellow-citizens in the prosperity and welfare of his country, has the privilege of enjoying the elective franchise equally with them; but that he either influenced any man unduly, or attended the poll whilst it was open at Bodine's, as stated in the certificates, is wholly unfounded and false, as the annexed certificates, in addition to his own veracity, will, he hopes, satisfactorily establish.

This deponent has called on Wm. W. Blake, who declares, that he never said that this deponent, at any time during the election, acted any way improperly, and that he does not recollect ever seeing this deponent at any other poll, than the one held at Hazard's, the first day of the election, thereby giving the lie to his certificate.

That this deponent has also called on Richard E. Blake, for an explanation of his certificate, who declares, that he only said, that this deponent was at the poll the first day, and declares, that he saw nothing improper in this deponents conduct; that he was asked by the men, who wrote his certificate, whether he had heard Mr. Van Beuren say, that he would give fifty dollars to tar and feather John W. Blake, which he answered he had not, but that he had heard such report, and from that, says he, they have made all that stuff. On being asked who wrote their certificates, they declare they do not know who they were. That one of the men was called Doctor, but whether it was Doctor Secor, they could not tell; and from the description of the other, those who were in company with this deponent, calculated it was Garret Gilbert, Esq.

Both William W. Blake and Richard E. Blake, declare to this deponent, that at the time these gentlemen called on them and wrote their certificates, they were somewhat jolly, and that they hardly knew what they had certified.

And this deponent doth further state, that in a late conversation with Mr. Daniel Van Duzer, of this place, he, Van Duzer, did declare, that he went with Mr. G. Gilbert and Doctor Secor, to Mr. Wm. W. and Richd. E. Blake's, at the time their certificates were wrote; and further this deponent saith not. WM. ARNET.

Sworn before me, this 30th day of Jan. 1821.

Benj. Simonson, Justice.

No. 6.

Richmond County, ss.—Caleb T. Ward, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that on the 24th inst. this deponent was present at an interview between Wm. Van Beuren, William Arnett, and Wm. W. Blake, in which the two former read to said Blake, a certificate purporting to be signed by him, and communicated to the legislature of this state, with a late message from the governor, and desired an explanation and acknowledgment of its untruth; that said Blake declared that he was in a frolic, when two men of New-York, one of whom was called a Doctor, and the other of whom he described; and declared, he supposed the first to be Dr. Secor, the other, from description, and other circumstances, this deponent believes to have been Garret Gilbert, Esq. That the above named Blake says, that he can neither read or write, and that his son signed a paper for him, which he presumed was the certificate alluded to. That it was certainly false, because he had never seen Mr. Arnett at the poll at Bodine's, nor did he ever see either him or Mr. Van Beuren, deliver out a ticket or tickets, during the last annual election, at any place. That he, and Richard E. Blake,

both agreed to come to the quarantine ground, and sign an acknowledgment of the error and mistake which had been made. The next day they both went to Mr. Arnett, in the quarantine, and not finding him at home, came to Hazard's hotel, and there, in the presence of this deponent, Wm. Van Beuren, Wm. Arnett, Thomas Hazard, jun. and others, in a public bar-room, made the same acknowledgment, and declared, that the facts stated in those certificates were never declared to by them, and were unfounded, according to their own recollection and knowledge, and again acknowledged they were in a frolic, when the certificates were obtained of them : And this deponent further saith, that on the 24th inst. he was also present at an interview between Mr. Arnett and Richard E. Blake, the latter of whom acknowledged, that the certificate purporting to have been given by him, and annexed to the aforesaid message, was incorrect. That he never saw Mr. Arnett at Bodine's, during the last annual election, and never saw either him or Mr. Van Beuren, deliver out tickets, or brow-beat, or insult electors. That this deponent was present at Mr. Bodine's when Mr. Van Beuren accosted Mr. John W. Blake, and informed him that he was provoked, by recollections relative to his toryism during the revolutionary and late war, and at his challenging indiscriminately, the descendents of revolutionary whigs, and supporters of their country in both wars, being freeholders, and undisputed voters, at Mr. Hazard's, and had therefore used an unguarded and indiscreet expression relative to him, and wished to apologize for it ; that the said John W. Blake also expressed a regret on his part, that his conduct had been so irritating, and declared himself fully satisfied with the explanation and apology of Mr. Van Beuren, and they both agreed to say, or think no more of the affair. And this deponent further saith, that William Van Beuren is a citizen of fair and respectable standing in society, and is entitled (in the opinion of this deponent and of his neighbors) to the character of a patriotic inhabitant of this vicinity. And this deponent further saith, that although, at a second interview at Hazard's hotel, William W. and Richard E. Blake expressed their willingness to give a written certificate of the acknowledgments and facts, he has before stated in this affidavit, and promised to appear the next day for that purpose ; they have not, as he is informed and believes, performed that promise : That the said Richard E. Blake, at the interview aforesaid, acknowledged also, that the certificate in relation to Mr. Parker was untrue, and that after he had been challenged for the want of a deed for his lots, Mr. Parker returned and said, he now had his deed, and voted without being challenged. And this deponent further saith, that Nathan Combes, who had recently come from Shrewsbury, or New-York, to reside in this vicinity, and who soon after absconded therefrom, is a person in whose veracity confidence cannot, in his opinion, be placed. That the said N. Combes was understood, and believed by this deponent, to be a half-pay British officer, but that he is

informed, and believes, that a few days after the election said Combes shewed to Thomas Hazard, jun. who challenged him at the poll for disaffection to the country, an affidavit, purporting that he had not received half-pay from the British government for several years past; and that notwithstanding the short residence of the said Combes amongst us, he visited Albany, and returned in the spring with a commission from the partizans of Mr. Clinton, as notary and commissioner, and left the county as aforesaid, sometime in July or August last.

CALEB T. WARD.

Sworn to before me, William S. Root, a public notary of the state of New-York, residing at the quarantine ground, Staten-Island, this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

William S. Root, Notary Public.

No. 7.

Richmond County, ss.—Thomas Hazard, jr. being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he was appointed a challenger for the town of Castleton, in said county, by the republican committee for said town, and attended regularly as such, during the whole election of April, 1820, and that William Arnett and William Van Beuren, never gave out tickets to his knowledge, and that said Arnett, in particular, was not present at the election, except occasionally during the first day, when it was held at the house of this deponent, until after the election was closed. That before the election, this deponent had a conversation with the said William Arnett, and advised him to influence his boatmen to vote, which the said Arnett declined; and the said Arnett expressed his surprise at certain official insinuations (which had been made, as was reported by Dr. Bailey, health-officer, and which this deponent at the time supposed to be true) to the persons employed in the health department, advising them not to vote, as they were known to be republicans, and that they would vote against Governor Clinton, and the federal party, if they voted at all; that several freeholders, attached to that establishment, were thereby deterred, as he believes, from voting, and did not present themselves at the poll, during the whole election, although it was held the whole of the first day, within fifty rods of their residence; and he verily believes that it was on account of the intimations of Dr. Bailey as aforesaid, that they were deterred or withheld from voting. And this deponent further saith, that the said William Arnett was not present at the poll at Bodine's, the last day of the election, as has been certified, and believes the certificates in that respect, entirely false and fabricated, not only from his own knowledge, but because he has recently been present at an interview in which the persons who gave the said certificates, or some of them, acknowledged or declared openly, that those expressions were not true; that they were signed for them, at least for one of them, that is to say, as to William W. Blake, and when they were so signed or given by

the said Blakes, they were in a frolic or state of intoxication, and had no foundation in truth ; and the said William W. Blake and Richard E. Blake, promised to certify the next day, in writing, in the presence of this deponent, William Van Beuren, William Arnett, John Vanderbilt, jr. Caleb T. Ward, and others, whose names he does not recollect at this moment, to the falsity and injustice of the certificates alleged to have been made and signed by them, or either of them, as aforesaid. That the said William W. Blake, last mentioned, said he believed that the persons who obtained the said certificates, were Dr. Secor and Garrit Gilbert, of New-York. That during the election, this deponent was challenged by John W. Blake, and when Richard E. Blake offered to vote, this deponent challenged him, on the ground of disaffection to the country : That this deponent, at the same time avowed to the said Blake, before the inspectors and audience, the reasons of the challenge, which were, that this deponent had been informed, and believed, that he had been unfriendly to the independence of the country, in the revolutionary war, and in the war of 1812, and had, in the late war, declared “ that he wished to God, that the frigate President, (then commanded by Commodore Rodgers,) would be taken by the British, and sent into New-York, and burn it down to ashes ! ” That he was apprised of his rights by this deponent, and informed, that if he would disavow or declare that those expressions were not made or entertained by him, this deponent would, with pleasure, withdraw the challenge. That said Blake said, that it was none of this deponent’s business, and declined answering, whereupon this deponent persisted in making him take the oath of allegiance. That John W. Blake had challenged twenty-seven out of twenty-nine, of the first votes given at the election in Castleton, although he knew them to be freeholders or electors of representatives in Assembly and Congress, and had known them to vote for many years before, and to have taken the requisite oaths over and over again, upon his own challenges ; and who, as this deponent believes, the said Blake was well satisfied were clearly and certainly entitled to vote. That this deponent holds no office under the general or state government, and never has held any. That Nathan Combes, referred to in said certificates, resided on this island about a year, during which time he went to Albany, and obtained, to the surprise of every respectable resident, the office of public notary and commissioner, which he performed for a few months, and then absconded, and has never since been known or heard of in this county ; and this deponent challenged him at the said election, upon the ground of his being a half-pay British officer, and the said Combes did, some few days after the election, shew to this deponent an affidavit, professing to be made by him, before the honorable John Garritson, for the satisfaction of this deponent, stating, that although he had been a half-pay British officer, heretofore, that he had not received the said pay for several years past : And further this deponent

saith, that he, and many of his neighbours, would not, he verily believes, place confidence in the oath even of said Combes, where he was, in any manner or way interested.

T. HAZARD, Jun.

Sworn before me, this 30th day of Jan. 1821.

Benj. Simonson, justice.

No. 8.

Richmond county, ss.—Personally appeared before me, Winant Houghwout, one of the justices of the peace for said county, Peter Martling, of the town of Castleton, in said county, who being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that in a conversation with the honorable John Garritson, first judge of said county, a few years since, concerning the conduct of Capt. John W. Blake, towards him, this deponent, at an election held in said county, that he, the said Garritson, did declare and say, to this deponent, that the said Blake was a bad man, and of such a character, that he, the said Blake, ought not to be allowed to set at the poll of election as challenger, and ought to be broomsticked out of the house.—And further this deponent saith not.

PETER MARTLING.

Castleton, January 25th, 1821.

Sworn before me, this 24th day of January, 1821.

Winant Houghwout, justice.

No. 9.

Richmond county, ss.—Personally appeared before me, Benjamin Simonson, one of the justices of the peace for the county of Richmond, John B. Simonson, of the town of Southfield, county aforesaid, who being duly sworn, upon the holy evangelists, deposeth and saith, that being in company with Richard E. Blake, of Castleton, during the late war, he, the said Richard, did declare or say, that he wished that the British might gain possession of New-York, and other assertions to the same effect, and that then we should have better times. This conversation took place during the campaign of 1814. The said Richard and this deponent, were both attached to the company of Capt. John Barnes—and further this deponent saith not.

JOHN B. SIMONSON.

Sworn before me, this 23d day of January, 1821.

Benjamin Simonson, justice.

No. 10.

Richmond county, ss.—Cornelius V. B. Corson, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he was present at the tavern of James Dobson, now kept by Cornelius Van Buskirk, during the late war; that Richard E. Blake, of this county, was there present, and that he, the said Blake, did declare and say, that he wished to God, that the President frigate, (then commanded by

Commodore Rodgers,) would be taken by the *British* and sent into New-York, and burnit down to *ashes*. And further this deponent saith not.

CORNELIUS V. B. CORSON.

Sworn before me this 27th day of January, 1821.

Winant Houghwout, justice.

No. 11.

Richmond county, ss.—Personally appeared before me, Winant Houghwout, one of the justices of the peace, for said county, John Baker, jun. who being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he, this deponent, has seen a certificate among the documents accompanying his Excellency Governor Clinton's message, referred to the honorable the Legislature, marked U, in which the honorable John Garritson, first judge of this county, states, as to the good character and standing of a number of persons of this county, amongst which, he mentions the name of William W. Blake, a man to this deponent well known, as to property and character. And this deponent doth say, that the statement made, as to said Blake's character, by judge Garritson, is not correct; for this deponent doth say, that he has detected him in the act of felony. And further this deponent saith not.

JOHN BAKER, Jun.

Sworn before me, this 25th day of January, 1821.

Winant Houghwout, justice.

No. 12.

Richmond county, ss.—Personally appeared before me, Winant Houghwout, one of the justices of the peace for said county, John Baker, Sen. who being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he, this deponent, knows John W. Blake, and he, the said Blake, did admit to this deponent, that he was shot in the hinder part, by Cornelius Fountain, for stealing water-mellons out of the said Fountain's patch, in this county, and he, the said Blake, did shew this deponent the marks of shot holes, in his, the said Blake's hinder parts. And further this deponent saith not.

JOHN BAKER, Sen.

Sworn before me, this 25th day of January, 1821.

Winant Houghwout, justice.

Resolutions of the Citizens of Buffalo.

No. 1.

Albany, February 16, 1821.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. inclosing the copy of a resolution, said to have been adopted by certain citizens of Buffalo, and referred to in the governor's message of the 18th ult. as document W. V. and also an extract from the message containing his remarks thereon.

The same deference to the chief magistracy of the state, which has induced the honorable bodies, whom you represent, to institute the present enquiry, will demand from me a respectful answer to charges and insinuations, which, but for the official sanc-

tion that has been given to them, I could only have regarded with contempt.

Had the Buffalo resolution, instead of general censure and indiscriminate invective, against a whole class of officers, advanced specific charges, against particular individuals, so as to have admitted either of proof or refutation, I might perhaps, have deemed it my duty to notice it. But, even with these imposing circumstances, in its favor, it would still have amounted to nothing more than the denunciation of a party meeting: And considering the conspicuous place which the governor's own conduct, has of late occupied in the resolutions of such meetings, he has certainly shewn that he was not wanting in a particular species of *moral fortitude*, by appealing to them, as a standard for appreciating character.

The resolution, as explained in the correspondence between Dr. Marshall and the governor, and as connected with the general reasonings and imputations of the message, charges the gentlemen attached to the boundary commission, residing in the county of Niagara, with an active and zealous interference in the state elections; with endeavors to coerce the vote of electors; with subserviency to the views of the general government; and with declarations of an intention to revolutionize the county and state.

In condescending to answer all these charges, so far as they may have been intended to apply to myself, I beg to be understood as not thereby adopting the political ethics of the message, which constantly confounds the fair exercise of the elective franchise, when it happens to be directed against the personal views of the governor, and the utterance of idle and boasting expressions, with acts, which are not only reprehensible but criminal.

With this explanation, I declare that any, and every charge or insinuation in the resolution or message, conveying the idea that I have ever endeavored to coerce, or improperly influence the vote of an elector, or, that I have acted in subserviency to the views of the general government, in our state elections, is utterly false, and destitute even of the shadow of foundation. And I further assure you, that I have never made the declaration mentioned in the resolution, of an intention to revolutionize the county or state: And that, so far from having been troublesomely officious with late elections, it has so happened, that I have never, since I had the honor to hold my commission under the general government, exercised my undoubted privilege of attending political meetings, nor of remaining longer at, or near the poll of an election, than has been necessary to deposit my own vote. I acknowledge however, at the same time, and with pride, that I have not only claimed, but exercised the right of freely expressing my sentiments, in regard to public men and measures; a right which I shall never surrender on the authority of a man, whose opinions, on this subject at least, (to borrow a figure from his friend) have changed with the phases of his political fortunes. But in the exercise of this inestimable,

and, with an American citizen, unalienable privilege, I challenge the proof, that I have departed from the decorum due to my public station.

As to the other gentlemen employed in the boundary commission, and who reside in the county of Niagara, I can only say, that they are freehold electors of the county ; and I believe, with one exception, native citizens of the state. I have never heard, nor do I believe, that they have taken any other part in the elections, than is common with other citizens of their age and standing ; and from my knowledge of their characters, I feel warranted in saying, that they have done no acts dishonorable to themselves, as gentlemen, or incompatible with the political rights of their fellow-citizens.

I ought, perhaps, to have closed this communication here ; but knowing that the public feeling has been highly excited by the message, and will, of course, be gratified with every circumstance, calculated to throw light upon it, I have thought proper to transmit the subjoined affidavits, of Major Camp and Doctor Trowbridge.

Mr. Forward, (spoken of in Major Camp's affidavit,) is collector of the port of Buffalo, and at the same time, a state senator. I regret that I have not been able to find a copy of the other resolutions, passed at the Buffalo meeting, at the instance of Mr. Forward ; and which, if I do not greatly mistake, are not only abusive of the general government, of which he is an officer, but highly so, of a majority of the state senate, of which he is a member. He is, moreover, the political friend of the governor, and one of the " custom-house officers on the lakes," whose conduct is represented, in the message, as having been so " unexceptionable." Doctor Marshall, the chairman of the meeting, is clerk of the county, appointed during Governor Clinton's administration, after the removal of his predecessor. Mr. Platt, who gives the information contained in the affidavits, is a young gentleman of the most respectable character and standing, and son of his honor Judge Platt, of the supreme court.

I submit the affidavits without comment, and with the full belief, that the honorable the legislature, taking into view the time when the Buffalo resolution was gotten up, and with a knowledge of all the characters concerned, will be able to form a fair estimate of the motives which produced, and the consideration that is due to it.

I have the honor to be,

With great consideration and respect,

Your obed't serv't.

PETER B. PORTER.

Honorable S. B. Romaine, Chairman, &c.

No. 2.

I hereby certify, that on or about the last of November, 1820, I was present at the house of Gen. P. B. Porter, in company with

Zepheniah Platt, Esq. and others. That the said Zepheniah Platt, then and there stated, that he attended what was called a meeting of the friends of equal representation, in the village of Buffalo, on the 7th of December, 1820. That he was present from the time the meeting was organized, until it was dissolved. That he heard the resolutions read and passed. And that no resolution was read or passed at that meeting, in the least degree reflecting on the officers of the general government, residing in that quarter, or in the remotest degree resembling the one published, purporting to have been passed at that meeting.

J. TROWBRIDGE.

Washington, February 5, 1821.

District of Columbia, Washington City, ss.—On this 5th day of February, 1821, personally appeared, the above named J. Trowbridge, and made oath, in due form of law, that the facts stated in the foregoing certificate, are true, as stated.

U. WEIGHTMAN, *justice.*

No. 3.

I hereby certify, that on the day on which the Niagara Journal, (containing certain resolutions said to have been passed at a meeting of the citizens of Buffalo, at which John E. Marshall was chairman) was published, I happened in the office of Zepheniah Platt, Esq. and noticing the resolution criminating the United States' officers in that vicinity, with improper interference in state elections, I then asked Mr. Platt if he was present at the meeting, to which he replied in the affirmative.

I then read the said resolution to him, and he declared that no such resolution was introduced at that meeting, and observed, that if any had been proposed, he should have felt it his duty to have opposed it, as he did not believe that the said officers had improperly interfered in the elections of this state. Upon enquiring of Mr. Platt, how many persons attended the said meeting, he replied, that it consisted of about ten or twelve persons, and that the said resolutions were drawn up or presented by O. Forward, Esq. a senator of the western district of New-York, and collector of the customs, for the port of Buffalo creek. And I further certify, that I was present at the house of General Peter B. Porter, at the time mentioned in the certificate of Doctor Josiah Trowbridge, and then and there, heard Mr. Platt repeat the aforesaid declarations, as stated in the said certificate.

JNO. G. CAMP.

Sworn before me, this 14th day of Feb. 1821.

Geo. Dexter, commissioner, &c.

No. 4.

Black Rock, February 26, 1821.

SIR—In my letter to you of the 16th inst. with a view to shew the extreme tolerance and complacency of Governor Clinton's disposition, towards such federal officers, as might chose to insult the *legislative* branch of our state government, I adverted to cer-

tain other resolutions, of which I had not then a copy, passed on the suggestion of collector and senator Forward, at the Buffalo meeting, of the 7th of December, and on whose proceedings the governor has relied for the proof of his charges against me.

I now enclose you a copy of two of these resolutions, as published in the Niagara Journal, of the 12th of December, and signed by John E. Marshall, chairman.

I am, sir, respectfully yours,

P. B. PORTER.

Resolved, That we have seen, with regret and indignation, the names of senators and representatives from the western district of this state, recorded in favor of the passage of the bill aforesaid; that we consider said senators and representatives as having basely surrendered the rights of the people they had sworn faithfully to represent, and that we consider them as having forfeited the confidence of community, as well as all claim to the respect of their constituents.

Resolved, That we have viewed with astonishment and detestation, the indecorous and disgraceful conduct of the bucktail members of the senate towards the chief magistrate of this state, on the last day of their meeting; and that they, with Peter R. Livingston at their head, appeared more like an infuriated mob, destitute of every principle of sense and decorum, than like the representatives of a free and enlightened people.

District Attorney for the Southern District of New-York.

No. 1.

New-York, February 7, 1821.

SIR—In compliance with the request “*of the joint committee of the Senate and Assembly, to whom was referred the message of his excellency the governor, of the 18th of January, with the documents accompanying the same, requesting all the information which I can furnish, connected with the subject referred to them,*” I transmit the affidavit of William Eaton, enclosed in the letter of Mr. Hoyt, before whom it was acknowledged, as the only information received from others, applicable to the specific charge against me individually, as contained in document X, of the message of his excellency the governor; and as you have expressed a wish on the part of the committee, that in “*replying to the charges contained in the documents, it may be put in a shape as authentic as possible,*” I have also added my own statement, on oath.

To the general allegation “*of my officious and improper interference,*” I shall make no reply, as the charge refers to no facts to which a personal explanation can be offered. For whether the allusion is made to the assertion of a right, which, as a citizen, I possess, of expressing, with freedom, to others, my opinion

of the character and disqualifications of those who aspire to high and dignified trusts, or, if as an elector, I have been governed by feelings distinct from those which led others to the support Mr. Clinton, I am not yet aware that either can constitutionally be the subject of limitation by the legislature, or of personal animadversion by the chief magistrate.

With great respect, &c.

I am your ob'dt. serv't,

ROBT. TILLOTSON.

*Samuel B. Romaine, Esq. chairman,
of the joint committee of the Senate and Assembly, &c.*

No. 2.

City of New-York, ss.—Robert Tillotson, being duly sworn, says, that the representation, said to have been made by this deponent, in the presence or hearing of William Eaton, as contained in the certificate X, of the documents transmitted with the message of his Excellency Governor Clinton, of the eighteenth of January last, and signed by Israel Ketcham, “that this deponent had directed a gentleman to go to certain individuals in the western district, and to say to them, that any office they wanted in that quarter, which was in the gift of the general government, should be given to them,” is false and unfounded. And further, that this deponent never did to any person whatsoever, either on this or any other occasion, hold language of the nature and tenor described in the said certificate. ROBT. TILLOTSON.

Sworn before me, this seventh day of Feb. 1821.

Anthy. Woodward, notary public, S. N. Y.

No. 3.

City and county of New-York, ss.—William Eaton, of the city of New-York, being duly sworn, says, that the certificate of Israel Ketcham, in document X, of his Excellency De Witt Clinton's communication to the legislature of this state, on the eighteenth day of January, instant, so far as relates to this deponent, is totally destitute of truth; and further, that Robert Tillotson, Esq. never said, in my presence, or to my knowledge, what is stated in the said certificate of the said Israel Ketcham, and therein represented to have been communicated by me to him; nor did I ever report, or make any such declarations as are represented in the said certificate; nor had I ever any such conversations with the said Israel Ketcham, as is stated in his subsequent certificate, dated the second day of January, 1821.

WILLIAM EATON.

Sworn before me, this 23d day of January, 1821.

Jesse Hoyt, notary public.

No. 4.

New-York, January 23, 1821.

MR. EDITOR,

Sir—Among the numerous certificates which accompanied the governor's message to the house of assembly, the 18th inst. on

the subject of undue influence in our state elections, I observe in your paper of last evening, one from Israel Ketcham, stating he derived part of the information contained in his certificate, from me. To this, I take the liberty of declaring the whole to be a base fabrication, absolutely false, and without the least shadow of foundation.

SAM. COOPER.

Editor Daily Advertiser, New-York.

District Attorney for the Northern District of New-York.

No. 1.

Albany, February 15th, 1821.

SIR---Your letter, requesting information, in relation to the charges against me, contained in the governor's message to the legislature, of the 18th January, was not received till after my address to the public, upon that subject, had been sent to the press. I was ignorant that the message, with the accompanying documents, had been referred to a committee, or I should have addressed my communication to them. I must therefore beg leave to refer you to that communication, and to the certificates which accompany it, for a refutation of the only charge against myself, which I felt it incumbent upon me to notice. The gentlemen who have signed those certificates, are among the most respectable inhabitants of the county of Schoharie; and two of them, Mr. Crosswell and Mr. Reed, are decidedly opposed to me in politics.

In relation to the affidavits of Knapp and Bradford, I have only to remark, that in common with my fellow-citizens, I certainly felt a deep interest in the result of the last spring election; and I did suppose, that in common with them, I had an undoubted right, fairly to exert whatever influence I might possess, in favor of the candidates whom I preferred. And I must protest against the doctrine contended for by the governor, that that right was forfeited, or impaired, by the circumstance of my holding a commission under the United States. I find no such limitation of my rights, where alone it is to be sought for, in the constitution of this state.

I am, very respectfully,

Your ob'dt serv't,

JACOB SUTHERLAND.

Samuel B. Romaine, Esq. chairman of the joint committee, to whom was referred the message of the governor, of the 18th of January.

No. 2.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The grave and criminal nature of one of the charges which governor Clinton, in his communication to the legislature, of the 18th instant, thought proper to make against me, renders it a duty

which I owe to myself, to my friends, and to the public, to notice and repel it. I shall of course be understood as alluding to the charge of threatening the tenants of Chancellor Lansing with prosecution, at the last spring's election, if they did not vote as I directed; a charge, which, if true, subjects me to a penalty of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, and disqualifies me from holding any office within the state—which holds me up to the community as a petty tyrant, proscribing, within the sphere of my power, all freedom of opinion and action, and deserving of the detestation and abhorrence of all good citizens.

Had this charge been made in an anonymous publication, I should, probably, have trusted to my general character for its refutation, and treated it with silent contempt; but when it appears in the shape of an affidavit, and is adopted and sanctioned by the chief magistrate of the state, by being embodied in one of his communications to the legislature, it acquires an importance which I do not feel myself at liberty to disregard. It is due to the official character of the governor to presume, that he would not place upon the records of the state, and publish to the world an instrument, containing so serious an imputation upon the character of a respectable citizen, without having previously ascertained the rank and consideration of its author, in the community whose opinions he undertakes to represent. Governor Clinton must therefore be considered, as having given to the public, on this occasion, the strongest implied assurance, that the witness who had testified against me, maintains a character, and holds a situation in life, which entitles his representations, upon the subject on which he has spoken, to implicit credit and respect. What then will be thought, I will not say of the governor's justice or magnanimity, but of his truth and honor, when it is known, that this Mr. Rulifson, this expositor of public opinion, whom he has thus vouched for, is *a boy of eighteen years of age*, who has neither property, nor reputation to stake upon the truth of his affidavit—whom I never saw or heard of till within three days, and whom nine tenths of the inhabitants of the town whose opinions he has undertaken to swear to, have never seen, nor heard of to this hour.

Is there not something revolting to every man's sense of justice and morality, in this attempt to palm upon the public as an intelligent and unexceptionable witness, in relation to public opinion, an unfledged and irresponsible boy—who was totally incompetent to speak upon that subject; when the fact which he swore to, if true, must have been known, and could have been testified to, by at least a majority of the adult inhabitants of the town of Blenheim. But it was not true, and therefore there was not a *man* to be found who would swear to it.

But this is not all—Rulifson probably intended to swear to no more than was true, but he has been made to swear to much more than he intended; this is evident from the certificate of his explanation, signed by Mr. Croswell and others. Unaccustomed to ex-

amination, and ignorant of the force of language, he has been made to represent that as the general opinion, which he only intended to represent as the conversation of a few individuals; and, if the examination had been conducted by a man of honor, anxious only for the disclosure of truth, it would have appeared that those individuals were a knot of discomfitted partizans, smarting under recent defeat, and anxious to impute it to any other cause than its true one—the virtue and intelligence of the people. My opposition to the present chief magistrate of the state, has been uniform, but temperate—I have never permitted myself to speak of him, as an individual, but with decent respect. But when he so far forgets the respect due to himself, and the consideration due to others, as to permit the feelings of hostility, engendered by political opposition, to break forth into criminal charges and denunciations, whenever I am the subject of them, I shall consider and treat him as a calumniator; and if he is not protected by the legal presumption, arising from the occasion on which he published the charges in question, that he was not actuated by malice, I shall call him into a court of justice to prove, and answer for them.

JACOB SUTHERLAND.

Blenheim, Schoharie county, Jan. 26, 1821.

No. 3.

We the subscribers do certify, that we were present at the house of Herman Rulifson, in the town of Blenheim, in the county of Schoharie, on the 26th day of January instant, at which time Jacob Sutherland, Esq. of said town, and others, were present, together with Rulif Rulifson. At which time and place the said Rulif, on being interrogated, stated, that he had made a certain affidavit before Harmanus Bouck, Esq. dated the 8th instant, and which said affidavit has been transmitted by the Governor to the legislature of this state; that in making said affidavit, he did not mean to convey the idea, that it was the general opinion, that said Sutherland had threatened with prosecution those who were opposed to him in politics—but merely that he heard *it so talked* in company, where there were several persons present; but declined mentioning the names of the persons who were present, or who had said so. Said Rulifson further stated, that he knew of no person whom the said Sutherland had threatened to prosecute as aforesaid; and never heard any person say that he had been so threatened, or that he knew of any person who had been so threatened; but that all he meant to state in his affidavit was, that he had heard it so talked, as above stated, and upon that grounded his belief that it was true. The said Rulif further stated, that the said affidavit was drawn by Henry Hamilton, Esq. of Schoharie. The father of the said Ruliff stated, he was eighteen years of age in October last.

A. CROSWELL, Jns. Peace,
HENRY HAGER,
N. P. TYLER.

January 27, 1821.

No. 4.

We the subscribers, do hereby certify, that we are inhabitants of the town of Blenheim, in the county of Schoharie; that we reside in different parts of said town, and that probably every inhabitant of said town is known to one or the other of us; that we have seen, and read, and heard of, an affidavit, purporting to have been made by R. W. Rulifson, before Harmanus Bouck, Esq. on the 8th day of January instant, which has been transmitted by the Governor of this state to the legislature of the same; in which, among other things, it is stated by the said R. W. Rulifson, that he has generally understood, and believes, that Jacob Sutherland, Esquire, previous to the last spring election, as the agent of the late Chancellor Lansing, threatened the tenants of the said Chancellor Lansing, in said town, with prosecution, unless they would vote as he directed; that previous to the publication of the said affidavit, we never heard such an opinion expressed—and we do not hesitate to say, that such is not the general opinion in the town of Blenheim, nor the opinion of any respectable portion of the inhabitants of said town, nor, as we believe, of any respectable individual in said town; but, on the contrary, we are fully satisfied, that the said Jacob Sutherland has never exercised, or attempted to exercise, any undue or improper influence over the votes of the inhabitants of said town.

A Crosswell, Just. Peace,
Colber Reid, Town Clerk,
John Brewsted, Superv. Blenheim,
Christopher Hoagland, }
Benjamin Frazee, } Assessors.
Valentine Efner, }
Daniel Hager, jun. Just. Peace.

 POST-OFFICE.

No. 1.

General Post-Office, February 10th, 1821.

SIR—In reply to yours of the 8th, I have the honor to state, that in the spring of 1820, I removed certain post-masters in the state of New-York, because, (from the representations which were made to me, by respectable characters) I did believe that those post-masters did not conduct with that official impartiality which justice and duty required. If there has existed any interference with the election of governor of New-York, by officers of the federal government, either organized or unorganized, I am ignorant of it.

I never had any conversation or communication whatever, with any executive officer of the national government; nor did I ever write a word to any post-master or mail contractor, on the subject of that election. The number of post-masters in the state of New-York, is six hundred and seventy-five.

With respectful esteem,

Your mo. obt. st.

Hon. Henry Meigs.

R. J. MEIGS, Jr.

No. 2.

Caldwell, Warren Co. N. Y.

The honorable Nathaniel Pitcher, E. C. Gross, and R. S. Skinner, recommend to appoint Dow D. Williamson, postmaster at this place, vice Halsey Rogers to be removed, in consequence of the people having lost all confidence in him as a public officer.

R. J. M. Jr.

Remove and appoint, 17th March, 1820.

A correct copy from the original record in the post-office department.

THOS. ARBUCKLE, *Clerk.*

February 6th, 1821.

No. 3.

Poughkeepsie, March 20th, 1819.

SIR—As I was made the means of presenting certain documents and papers, in relation to the removal of Mr. M'Keen, and the appointment of Mr. V. Ness, I made it my business personally to possess myself of the circumstances of the case, on the spot, and which I beg leave to present to you. There appears to be almost one universal sentiment in favor of the above removal and appointment. Indeed, there can be no mistake as to those parties; however, some diversity of opinion exists, in favor of Mr. Leonard, who is a clergyman at this place, against whom no objection can be made, except that of the inconvenience of not having the mail opened on Sunday; and on this account he is generally objected to. The state of the office is this, which I have from undoubted authority. The young man who now performs the duties of the office, does them for one half of the profits; Mr. Ketcham, now sheriff of the county, has the other half, and Mr. M'Keen the sole privilege of franking. Thus, the office is subdivided into three distinct departments—The heads of two are not within your knowledge, and the one which is, has nothing to do with it, except to avail himself of the right of franking.

I cannot refrain from giving to you, as my decided opinion, that every part of this society would be gratified by the removal of Mr. M'Keen, and the appointment of Mr. V. Ness.

Be pleased to accept, sir,

The assurance of my high respect and esteem,

PHILIP J. SCHUYLER.

I certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy, by me compared with the original now on file in the general post-office.

THOS. ARBUCKLE, *Clk. of Appointments.*

February 10th, 1821.

No. 4.

To the Honorable Return J. Meigs, Post-Master-General of the United States.

SIR—The subscribers, residing in the village of Sandy-Hill, in the town of Kingsbury, county of Washington, and state of New-York, respectfully represent, that the post-office, within said village, is one of considerable importance, and its accommodations and attendance, ought, in some measure, to correspond with the business of the office. The office is now held by Alpheus Doty, who is a tavern-keeper, and has no post-office, but a small corner of his bar-room, partitioned with an open railing, and frequently the door is left open, and letters and other deposits left exposed to the throng which are usual in bar-rooms. It is also a fact, that the post-master and his deputy, are very frequently absent, and if present, oftentimes unaccommodating. Letters many times lie over for days after being called for, which occasions disappointment; in short, we deem it unjust, that the office should be any longer continued with the present incumbent, subject to the numerous complaints continually making, when it can be transferred into other hands perfectly satisfactory to the citizens at large. We therefore request, that a supersedeas issue, displacing Mr. Doty, and that Carmi Dibble, of the same place, be appointed in his stead.

Mr. Dibble is a merchant, his residence well adapted for the office, a man of property and of unimpeachable integrity, possessing an obliging disposition.

Yours with every sentiment of respect,

D. Sherrill,
M. D. Danvers,
Reuben Mussey,
Nathl. Pitcher,
J. B. Lathrop,

H. C. Martindale,
R. C. Gibson,
Luther Wait,
Stephen Lee.

June 20, 1818.

I certify, that the foregoing are true and correct copies, by me compared with the original now on file in the general post-office.

THOS. ARBUCKLE, *Clk. of Appointments.*

Feb. 10th, 1821.

No. 5.

To the Honorable Return J. Meigs, Post-Master-General of the United States.

The undersigned, inhabitants of the village of Little-Falls, respectfully represent, that Samuel Smith, the post-master in this village, has recently obtained the benefit of the insolvent act. That he has, for about six months past, had all the business of the post-office done by Anson Hollister, of said village,

druggist ; that the said Anson has attended to the same to our entire satisfaction. That the said Samuel says he intends soon to remove to the state of Louisiana, and permanently to reside there ; that he is now, and has been for some time past, in the city of New-York, preparatory to his removal. The undersigned should be gratified to have some attentive and responsible person appointed to said office, instead of Mr. Smith, and do accordingly recommend said Anson Hollister, as a fit and responsible person for said office, he also residing very convenient for the villagers and the mail carriers, and directly opposite the stage house tavern. And your petitioners hoping they do not apply in vain, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Little-Falls, Herkimer co. Dec. 2d, 1818.

George H. Feeter,	Thomas Buchanan,
Richard Petrie,	J. H. M'Comes,
N. S. Benton,	Thomas Smith,
Elkanah Stevens,	Jabez Fox,
Chauncey Marshall,	John Phillips,
Peter H. Bellinger,	Robert Henchman,
Eben. Britton,	Thos. Morgan,
John Trotheroe,	E. C. Penney,
Asa Fuller,	Wm. W. Carr,
David Petrie,	Thomas Gould.

I certify, that the foregoing are true and correct copies, by me compared with the originals now on file in the general post-office, Feb. 10th, 1821.

THOS. ARBUCKLE, *Clerk of Appointments.*

No. 6.

To the Honorable Return J. Meigs, Post-Master-General of the United States.

The petition of the undersigned republican electors of the town of Hartford, in the county of Washington, and state of New-York, humbly sheweth, that the office of post-master, in this town, is now filled by Slade D. Brown, a young man, whose violent political opposition to the republican party, has rendered him extremely obnoxious in this town ; and there is too much reason to suspect, that he suffers his political zeal, to carry him beyond the limits of his duty, and to make his office, as far as possible, subservient to his political views ; that from his appointment, until the present political division in this state had assumed a degree of virulence, and awakened party animosity, he had paid very little personal attention to the discharge of the duties of his office, but *farmed it out to others as little entitled to public confidence as himself.* Your petitioners, therefore, consider it highly important, for the honorable and important discharge of the duties of post-master in this place, that

he should be removed, and a man appointed in his place whose character will shield him against like suspicion, and *who will give his personal attendance to the duties* it requires.

For that purpose, your petitioners recommend Archibald Hay, who lives in a central and convenient situation to accommodate the public, and within a few rods of the place where the office is now kept, and whose character and standing, will make him generally acceptable to this town.

Robert Bull,	Russel Smith,
Nahum Holbrook,	William Cavell,
David Colman,	Roger Halladay,
Isaac Warner,	Solomon S. Cowen,
Thos. Eldridge,	B. S. Cowen.

I certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy, by me compared, with the original now on file in the general post-office.

THOS. ARBUCKLE, *Clerk of Appointments.*

Feb. 10, 1821.

No. 7.

I certify, that during the session of the legislature, at Albany, in the winter of 1820, I was a senator for the middle district, that my place of residence was in the village of Norwich; that during the session, I had several correspondents in the vicinity of Norwich village; that I frequently wrote letters directed to said post-office, which, as I was informed by individuals to whom they were directed, were not received; that I frequently was informed by persons in said town, that they had repeatedly written letters to me, which I had not received; that before the session closed, it was generally understood by me and the representatives from Chenango county, that there was no safety in sending communications by mail to the village of Norwich, and we had recourse to private conveyances, as frequently as possible; and when we sent to that quarter by mail, took the precaution to have the letters superscribed in an unknown hand, and nearly all the letters we received were also superscribed in a disguised hand, or put in at other post-offices than that in the village of Norwich; that I never heard of any complaints about letters to and from Albany miscarrying, until after the appointment of Mr. Chamberlain; and I further certify, that large numbers of newspapers which I ordered mailed, for different citizens in the town of Norwich and Preston, directed to Norwich post-office, were said by the individuals to whom they were directed, not to have been received; that I frequently failed of receiving the Norwich Journal, which I have the best of reason to think was mailed for me regularly; sometimes it would reach me, two or three mails after it was due, and on my return, I found one number of that paper in the office not

yet sent, which I should have received several days before I left Albany, if the post-master had sent it on in due time. And I further certify, that complaints were received by me and the three representatives, from Norwich, from a number of persons (all of whom agreed in the opinion, that the difficulty was in the Norwich post-office) very earnestly soliciting us to take some measures for the removal of Mr. Chamberlain, and the appointment of some other person; that we applied to the Hon. M. Van Buren, to join his exertions with ours to procure the removal, and also, several others whom we supposed acquainted with the post-master-general; and I further certify, that I received a petition in 1819, signed by a majority of the inhabitants of said village, requesting the appointment of Lot Clark, Esq. to which I added a request of my own, and I sent it on to the general post-office; and further, that I have no doubt, that Samuel Campbell, Samuel A. Smith and Thomas Humphrey, Esqrs. who were representatives at that time, viz. 1820, from the county of Chenango, will, if applied to, corroborate the above statement; but they are in remote parts of the county, and I have not the opportunity to apply to them.

JOHN NOYES.

Norwich, February 1, 1821.

No. 8.

Post-Office Department, Washington City, 9th Feb. 1821.

SIR—I herewith transmit copies of sundry papers, relative to the several subjects on which you request information.

I have the honor to be,

Yours, &c.

The Hon. Henry Meigs.

R. J. MEIGS, Jr.

No. 9.

(COPY.)

Albany, April 19th, 1809.

Dear Sir—I am sorry to trouble you so often in relation to post-offices in this state, but as I informed you, there is great cause of discontent at that establishment in some sections of the state. I have long since heard of the abuses detailed in the enclosed affidavit, and I am desired by Mr. Stewart to enclose you this. He is a gentleman of respectability, holding the office of district attorney for many of the western counties, and I have no doubt has been much injured in his feelings by Mr. Woodruff. You can judge of the correctness of his conduct. I have no confidence in this same Mr. Woodruff; he has been a republican, turned quid, and from that catterpillar state became a federalist. Robert Monnel, Esq. lives at Chenango Point, and is every way qualified for the office, should Woodruff be removed.

Your very ob't. serv't.

Honab'l Gideon Granger, Esq.

A. SPENCER.

No. 10.

Albany, July 28th, 1810.

DEAR SIR—Owing to my absence from home in attending the circuits, I have not been able to execute the trust you reposed in me until lately; and after having obtained all the necessary information, I filled up the warrant of discharge with the name of Hugh Buckly, whom I believe to be the fittest man to discharge the duties of the office of the village of Cayuga.

He gives information that Badger refuses to deliver over the key and papers to him, tho' repeatedly called on and demanded to do so; and it is not improbable that he and his confederates are taking measures to induce you to confirm him in the office—you will know how to act, should there not be a commission to Buckly.

I now enclose you his oath of office and bond, and have only to observe, that Badger is a drunken miserable creature, and that the office there has been so conducted as to excite general suspicion of fraud and villainy.

Perhaps in future you had best communicate with Buckley, directing to him at Auburn, the next post-office on this side.

With respect and esteem,

Your obt. serv.

(Signed)

A. SPENCER.

Hon. Gideon Granger.

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy by me compared with the original now on file in the General Post-Office.

THOS. ARBUCKLE, *Clerk of Appointments.*

Feb. 10th, 1821.

No. 11.

Honab'e Dewitt Clinton,
New-York.

24 March, 1803.

Abraham B. Rapalje, the P. M. at Fishkill, has resigned, and recommended Greenleaf Street for his successor. As it is of importance to have a suitable character for that office, (*'I must beg of you to have a suitable person for that office'*) I must beg of you to take the labor of appointing him for that purpose. Blanks are enclosed. (Signed) GIDEON GRANGER.

A true copy from the record on the books of the General Post-Office.

THOMAS ARBUCKLE, *Clerk.*

26th Feb'ry, 1821.

No. 12.

Whereas, in a certificate signed by Samuel M'Kinstry, and found among the printed documents, accompanying his Excellency's communication to the legislature, it is stated as follows, to wit: "that upon offering my vote for senators, at said election, (1819) my right to vote was challenged, by some person

then present, upon which I stated that I claimed a right to vote by reason of an estate in dower, belonging to my wife; and the said Charles Borland, jun. then one of the said inspectors, thereupon decided, that such estate gave me a legal right to vote for senators, and my vote was accordingly taken by said inspectors:" Now we, the undersigned, inspectors of election for the year 1819, for the town of Montgomery, in Orange county, do hereby certify, that when the said Samuel M'Kinstry offered his vote at said election, the said Charles Borland, jun. was of opinion, that said M'Kinstry was not entitled to vote upon the estate in dower of his wife, but that the board of inspectors were of a different opinion, and permitted M'Kinstry to vote;—and we further certify, that said Charles Borland, jun. did not decide that M'Kinstry had a right to vote, as is stated in said M'Kinstry's certificate, but holding his own opinion, acquiesced in the decision of the board of inspectors.

Peter Milliken,
Samuel Hunter,
Nathaniel Caldwell.

Montgomery, January 23, 1821.

No. 13.

We the undersigned, inspectors of election, in the town of Montgomery, in the county of Orange, at the last annual election in said town, do hereby certify, that Charles Borland, jun. Esq. was also inspector at said election; that during said election the said Charles Borland, jun. did pursue a dignified and impartial course of conduct during said election.

Joseph Elder, inspector, Peter Miliken,
Samuel Hunter, Abr'm Hunter,

Montgomery, 22d Jan. 1821.

No. 14.

Whereas, in a certificate signed by Daniel M. Frye, and dated the 6th Jan. 1821, and found among the printed documents accompanying the late communication of his excellency the governor to the legislature, it is stated as follows: "I do also certify, that at the said election, one Abraham Moul, was permitted to vote for governor and senators; that in February last, all the real estate of the said Moul was sold at sheriff's sale, and purchased by me, and a deed therefor executed and delivered to me by the sheriff; that the said Charles Borland, jun. was one of the attornies who obtained the judgment upon which the said property was sold; that after the sale, I paid the costs to said Borland, and told him I had purchased the property, and the said property has ever since belonged to me." And whereas it is intended from said certificate to be insinuated, that Charles Borland, jun. was present at the board of inspectors when said Moul voted, and knowing that he had no right to vote, yet, that the said Borland, as one of said inspectors, permitted him to do

so. Now we, Peter Milliken, Joseph Elder, Samuel Hunter and Abraham Hunter, four of the inspectors of election for the town of Montgomery, in Orange county, do hereby certify, that when the said Abraham Moul was permitted to vote at the election in April 1820, the said Charles Borland, jun. was not present at the board—that the polls of the election in the morning were just opened, and the said Borland had not then attended, and that said Moul's vote was the first or second vote taken that morning.

Jan. 23, 1821. Peter Milliken, Joseph Elder,
Samuel Hunter, Abr'm. Hunter.

Reception of the Vice-President in New-York.

A.

I hereby certify, that in the month of March last, I attended a meeting of officers, who had served under his Excellency Daniel D. Tompkins, now Vice-President of the United States, for the purpose of giving a public testimony of their confidence in his integrity and patriotism, by forming an association, to receive him on his return to this city. That at the said meeting, Col. Geo. W. Brown, Col. Daniel E. Dunscomb, Lt. Col. Alex. M. Muir, and myself, were appointed a committee of correspondence. That I have read the certificate of Charles N. Baldwin, which was transmitted by his Excellency Governor Clinton to the house of assembly on the 18th inst.; that so far as that "there was a correspondence between the meeting and the Vice-President," is utterly destitute of truth; on the contrary, both the committee and meeting carefully avoided making the Vice-President acquainted with their intentions; and that I attended all the meetings, but never saw either Gen. Giles or Capt. Evans there. And further, that having the honor of a personal acquaintance with Joseph G. Swift, Esq. formerly a Brigadier-General in the corps of Engineers, and a knowledge that he had served also, I called upon him, and obtained his assent to join the association, by his signing the roll.

GEORGE B. RAPELYE.

New-York, 29th January, 1821.

B.

City and County of New-York, ss.

William W. Tompkins being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was one of the association of officers formed for the purpose of testifying their respect to his Excellency the Vice-President, in grateful remembrance of the important services rendered the state during the late war: That it originated with Col. Geo. W. Brown, Col. Daniel E. Dunscomb, and Major

Geo. Hodgson : That he was informed of the contemplated association, by Col. Brown, a little time previous to the first meeting: That he attended the first and all subsequent meetings: That he was present when the corresponding committee were appointed, consisting of Col. Geo. W. Brown, Col. D. E. Dunscomb, Lieut. Col. Alex. M. Muir, and Major George P. Rapelye; and that said committee were instructed to avoid letting his Excellency know the proposed compliment, in order that he might not evade the intended honor: That this deponent has read the certificate of Charles N. Baldwin, transmitted to the legislature, with many others, on the 18th inst. by his Excellency De Witt Clinton: That he was present at the meeting at Tammany Hall, referred to in said certificate: That Com. Evans was not at said meeting, nor at any of the meetings of said association: That this deponent has examined a copy of the original role; that Com. Evans's name is not on it: That there was no such person as Lieut. Flinn, of the U. S. Navy, at said meeting, nor at any of them; neither were there any officers of the naval service attached to the association, except General Robert Swartwout, navy agent, and Col. John P. Decatur, naval store-keeper. Purser Wise's name was on the roll, but he believes he never attended any meeting of the association: That this deponent was appointed orderly sergeant: That he never saw Gen. Giles with the association on any occasion: That he believes no person belonging to the service of the U. S. were any ways instrumental in getting up this association; and that the statement of Charles N. Baldwin, relative to Com. Evans, Gen. Giles, Lieut. Flinn, and also respecting the correspondence with his Excellency the Vice-President, is totally destitute of truth. And further the deponent saith not.

WILLIAM W. TOMPKINS.

Sworn to before me, this 27th day of Jan. 1821.

Nathan B. Graham, Commissioner.

C.

City and County of New-York, ss.

George W. Brown being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was a member of a committee of correspondence, appointed by a meeting held some time in the month of March last, by the officers who served under his Excellency D. D. Tompkins, during the late war; and that the object of the said meeting was to testify their respect for their late commander, on his arrival in this city; and that there was no preconcert whatever, with the gentlemen named in the certificate of Charles N. Baldwin, nor with any other officer of the general government; and that the object of the said meeting did not originate with either of the gentlemen mentioned in the said certificate.

And this deponent further saith, that it is untrue that there was a correspondence between the meeting, or the committee, and the Vice-President, relative to his arrival from Albany, and that the same was expressly avoided; nor was there any communication with the Vice-President relative to the same. And this deponent further saith, that Captain Evans, of the United States navy, and superintendent of the navy-yard, Brooklyn, and Lieut. Flinn, never did, to the knowledge of this deponent, attend any such meeting. And this deponent further saith, that he attended all the meetings of the said officers, except the general parade, when sickness prevented him from joining his brother officers in their testimonial of respect to their late commander. And further this deponent saith not.

GEO. W. BROWN.

Sworn this 27th day of Jan. 1821, before me,

William Seaman, Commissioner.

I certify, that Geo. W. Brown is a respectable man, and that he is entitled to full credit.

W. SEAMAN.

D.

George Hodgson, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was one of the officers who associated themselves as a volunteer corps, for the purpose of testifying their respect to his Excellency D. D. Tompkins, Vice-President of the United States, their late commander in chief, on his arrival in this city, in the month of April last. And this deponent further saith, that there was no preconcert whatever with the gentlemen named in the certificate of Charles N. Baldwin, annexed to Gov. Clinton's message of the 18th inst. to the legislature of the state, or any other officer whatever, in the United States' service, and that the same did not originate with either of the said gentlemen. And this deponent further saith, that the said intention originated with Col. G. W. Brown, and this deponent, and they together, consulted Col. D. E. Dunscomb, and Major G. B. Rapalye, and that the intention of the said association, was to shew to the world, that their confidence in the integrity of the Vice-President, was undiminished, notwithstanding the numerous calumnies and aspersions thrown out against him, by political opponents. And this deponent further saith, that it is untrue, though asserted in the said certificate of Charles N. Baldwin, "that there was a correspondence between the meeting and the Vice-President, relative to his intended arrival from Albany," but that such communication was intentionally and purposely avoided, and the committee of correspondence were so instructed by the meeting. And this deponent further saith, that according to the best of his knowledge, he was pre-

sent at every meeting of said officers, and at the parade, and that Capt. Evans, of the United States' navy, nor Lieut. Flinn, of the same, never assembled with us at either of the said meetings, and that this deponent acted as serjeant-major of said association of officers, and had a perfect opportunity to observe the attendance of every and each officer, at the said meetings ; and further this deponent saith not.

GEO. HODGSON.

Sworn this 27th day of January, 1821, before me,

William Seaman, Commissioner.

E.

To Samuel B. Romaine, Esq. Chairman of the committee of his Excellency the Governor's communication, of the 18th of January, 1821.

SIR—In the certificate which I made, dated December, 1820, relative to the meeting of officers at Tammany-Hall, for the purpose of making arrangements for the reception of the Vice-President, on his arrival in this city, I have discovered that I unintentionally, and through inadvertance, committed an error, which I am desirous of correcting. I certified, that Captain Evans, of the navy, and superintendent of the navy-yard, at Brooklyn, and also Lieut. Flinn, of the navy, were present at the meeting. I now believe, that there is no lieutenant or other officer, in the navy, of the name of Flinn ; and I am also satisfied that Capt. Evans was not at the said meeting. I do not know Capt. Evans. I saw a gentleman in the room who I was told was Capt. Evans, by a person who now denies having told me so. In this manner I was led into the error of taking another person for Capt. Evans.

When called upon to make a statement of what I knew of the meeting at Tammany-Hall, I stated that I did not know Capt. Evans, and that I was only told that Capt. Evans was in the room. The person who wrote the certificate worded it differently.

I am contradicted by George W. Brown, George Hodgson, William W. Tompkins, and George Rapelyea, in that part of my statement which relates to a correspondence between the Vice-President and the committee ; but I believe it to be correct, their affidavits and statements to the contrary notwithstanding. I obtained my information from a member of that committee, whose veracity I cannot doubt, and who is too well acquainted with the fact, to make an affidavit to the contrary.

I did expect that I should be summoned before the committee of which you are chairman, where I would have made

these explanations ; but finding it improbable that such a course will be adopted, I take the liberty of addressing this to you.

I remain, sir,

Your very humble serv't.

CHARLES N. BALDWIN.

New-York, 28th February, 1821.

F.

NEW-YORK, 15th February, 1821.

To Samuel B. Romaine, Esq.

Chairman of the committee on the Governor's message.

SIR,

I have received your communication of the 11th instant, and avail myself of the earliest occasion for a reply. The charges which have been preferred against me in a recent message from the governor of this state, I have hitherto deemed of too unimportant a character to merit attention ; having ever entertained the opinion, that the self-respect of that American must be low indeed, who could consider his political reputation affected by the unsupported assertions of obscure and uninformed foreigners.

In my own instance, two men, to whom I was never introduced, and whom, until recently I never saw, (the one a native of Russia, and the other a Scotchman) together with an Irishman, whose name I never recollect to have previously heard, but who, it appears, has been in this country a sufficient length of time, to be entitled to the benefit of our insolvent act, have been induced to tender to his excellency, the charitable modicum of their services, as corroborative of his official declaration, that the officers of the general government have "acted in opposition to the state administration, influenced by motives of an organized and disciplined hostility."

That pending the last gubernatorial election, my feelings were strongly interested, is a fact, which, as a native citizen, I glory in avowing; nor does it lessen my exultation to discover, in the ranks of those from whom I differ, the very persons who, during those times when "without was fighting, and within was fear," were either arrayed in secret hostility to this country, or in open alliance with the enemy.

Mr. Pindar has asserted, that he heard me declare at a public table, that I had "discharged the baker of the hospital, because he would not vote for D. D. Tompkins," and refers to his friend and fellow-alien, Mr. Bogere, for confirmation. Mr. B. reiterates the assertion, and adds, that I represented myself, to have "taken an active part in the election, and to have brought

up several soldiers to the polls." Of the standing of these foreign gentlemen, I can of course, know little, and even that has been received from unsolicited sources, within the last few days. Influenced by that sentiment of liberality which assumes as a gentleman, every man who has not been proven the reverse, indulging that freedom of expression incident to the fortuitous intercourse of a public house, and not suspecting that the casual observations of an humble individual, among those whom he conceived to occupy a rank above that of ordinary tatlers, could assume an importance worthy of being embodied with an official communication of the executive, I did not hesitate, when the occasion invited, to express my disapprobation of the entire administration of the present governor, as hostile alike to the tried friends and to the true interests of the republic.

Permit me, sir, to inquire, if even amid this social interchange of sentiments, in which I neither suspected the coolness of reserve or the watchfulness of suspicion, it comports with our ideas of common sense, that I should have hazarded the assertions attributed to me, and which I shall demonstrate to be as far from fact, as they are irreconcilable to our sense of ordinary propriety? Is it, sir, probable, that an officer, whose term of uninterrupted services, embraces a period of almost nine years, should have so far committed himself, as to have avowed at a public table, the dismissal of a baker for not having voted agreeable to his wishes; or the compulsory urging to the polls of a few soldiers, when that very avowal would have betrayed him to the world as an idiot or a tyrant?

But to the point. I solemnly declare that I never discharged from my employ, any baker, or other person, employed in the service of the hospitals over which I have had control, from any political consideration or motive whatever; and that since my having taken charge of the infirmary on Bedlow's island, in July, 1818, no baker has been engaged, except the soldier detailed for that duty; and that at the last election, I was never present at the polls when a U. S. soldier voted or offered to vote—that at no time during the said election, did I attempt to influence the opinion of any soldier, directly or indirectly; and that to the best of my knowledge and conformably with my most religious belief, no U. States officer, excepting myself, or soldier attached to the garrisons in this harbor, either voted or was present at the polls. I beg leave, sir, now to ask, whether it be more probable that I should have proclaimed at a "public table," what must inevitably have operated to my own prejudice, and what I knew to be at variance with fact;

or that the statements of the two gentlemen, should have resulted from misconception or inadvertency ?

The only conversation I recollect, analogous to that referred to in the certificates of Messrs. Pindar and Bogere, was one in relation to the propriety of retaliating upon the enemies of the government, the measures adopted by themselves. At the time of the spring election of 1815, and while having charge of the general hospital of this district, in the course of a conversation on the numerous rumors, then in circulation, relative to the tory merchants of the city having dismissed from their employ, all those mechanics and others friendly to the cause of the country, during which, my baker, Mr. Bogert, came into the office, I enquired of him, in a jocose manner, if his politics were of the "blue light" cast, as in that case I should be induced to apprehend some unpleasant consequences would result to those of my patients who consumed his bread. The sentiments of Mr. Bogert, corresponding with my own, the subject was dismissed, nor am I sensible of having since alluded to it, unless in a cursory discourse at Washington-Hall, about the time of the last election.

It is true, as represented by Mr. Dermot, that I offered my ticket at the poll of the 6th ward, in which I staid during a short residence in town, and that it was there I received the information of my being included in the first, as the post at which I was stationed, was attached to that section of the city ; but it was reserved for the present occasion, to make me acquainted with the circumstance of my "labouring under a *species of disfranchisement*," as announced in the message of the governor. Unfortunately for his excellency, the remainder of this man's statement is made up of the visions of his own brain. I wore no "cockade," or other badge at the polls ; I saw no soldier while there, nor did I, by "*bragging*" of having exercised a privilege, happily in this country common to the humblest citizen, evince either the obstreperous exultation of an emancipated helot, or the boisterous violence of a renegado.

I have the honor to be, sir,

With the highest sentiment of respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JNO. H. SACKETT,

Post Surgen, U. S. A.

Note.—I take the liberty of subjoining the certificate of Lt. Ager, which I neither saw or heard of, until subsequently to its publication.

G.

Bedlow's Island, Feb. 6, 1821.

I hereby certify, that no baker has been employed at Fort-Wood, Bedlow's Island, where Dr. Sackett was employed as surgeon, for eighteen months preceding this date, the baking having been performed by a private soldier, belonging to the garrison, during the whole of that period ; and it consists with my knowledge, that no person whatever, has been dismissed from the island. in the course of these eighteen months.

Signed,

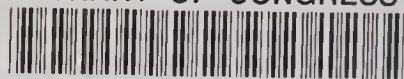
W. D. AGER.

Lt. U. States Artillery.





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